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ASSYRIAN

AND

BABYLONIAN LETTERS

BELONGING TO

THE K. COLLECTION OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

BY

ROBERT FRANCIS HARPER,

OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.

PART I.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS.

LUZAC AND CO., LONDON.
D. C. HEATH AND CO., CHICAGO.

1892

TO

THE REVD. J. N. STRASSMAIER, S.J.

PREFACE.

THE present work was undertaken chiefly by the advice of Dr. BUDGE, Acting Assistant-Keeper of the Department of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities of the British Museum.

Very little connected, or what might properly be termed scientific work, has hitherto been done in this line of research. PATER STRASSMAIER in his *Alphabetisches Verzeichniss der Assyrischen und Akkadischen Wörter*, etc., has given extracts of a great many letters, but he has published very few complete texts. A number of these texts has appeared in the *Cuneiform Inscriptions of Western Asia* and in the *Trans. Soc. Bibl. Arch.* and *Proc. Soc. Bibl. Arch.*, edited chiefly by Mr. PINCHES. Mr. S. A. SMITH has published about seventy-five in his *Keilschrifttexte Asurbanipals* (1887) and in his *Assyrian Letters from the Royal Library at Nineveh* (1888). FRIEDRICH DELITZSCH has reproduced a few in transliteration in his *Assyrisches Wörterbuch* and in *Beiträge zur Assyriologie*. The texts presented by SMITH and by DELITZSCH have been carefully copied. I have found few readings requiring correction, and I, herewith, express my indebtedness to both of them. To PATER STRASSMAIER both for his published texts, and for numerous valuable suggestions, orally communicated, touching several letters contained in this first Part, I wish to make hearty acknowledgment.

In SMITH'S and DELITZSCH'S publications there is no principle of arrangement. Moreover, they have, for the most part, confined themselves to exhibited and extremely easy texts. In part explanation of this lack of arrangement, it must be said that it was almost impossible to attempt any complete work prior to the publication of Dr. BEZOLD'S *Catalogue of the Cuneiform Tablets in the Kouyunjik Collection of the British Museum* (Vols. I and II). This *Catalogue* has opened a new opportunity for work in all departments of Assyriological research. I am under the greatest obligations to Dr. BEZOLD for his *Catalogue*, which I have used freely, and without which I could not have undertaken the present work.

It is my purpose (1) to publish all the letters in the K. Collection in which the name of the scribe is to be found; (2) the best preserved and most important of those without signatures; and (3) a transliteration and either a tentative translation or a *résumé* of the contents (after the plan of Drs. BEZOLD and BUDGE in their *Tell el-Amarna Tablets in the British Museum*) together with a glossary. The texts alone will occupy three or four volumes, and the transliteration, translation and glossary at least two more. In other words, my purpose is to give a *Corpus Epistolarum* of the *K. Collection*. The plan of publication in this, as also in the forthcoming volumes, is to collect and arrange the letters according to the names of the scribes. I regard this as the only scientific method. Material for the explanation of the vocabulary and grammatical peculiarities can be obtained in this way better than in any other, *e.g.*, compare in point of vocabulary and style the sixteen letters of Ramman-šum-uṣur placed at the beginning of this Part.

It has been my aim to publish all the letters in the K. Collection — up to 8,000 — belonging to the scribes

selected for this Part. Two or three which were doubtful have been omitted purposely. If others have been omitted they will be inserted in another Part. This plan necessitates the publishing of all texts. Some are very badly broken, and have been inserted only for the sake of completeness. Restorations have not been attempted, as they more naturally fall within the province of the commentary, in which I hope to add many textual notes. The head-lines are the most common readings of the names of the scribes found in the letters over which they stand.

In conclusion, I express my thanks to the authorities of the British Museum, and particularly to Dr. BUDGE, Acting Assistant-Keeper of the Department, for the ready assistance granted me, which in many ways has facilitated my work.

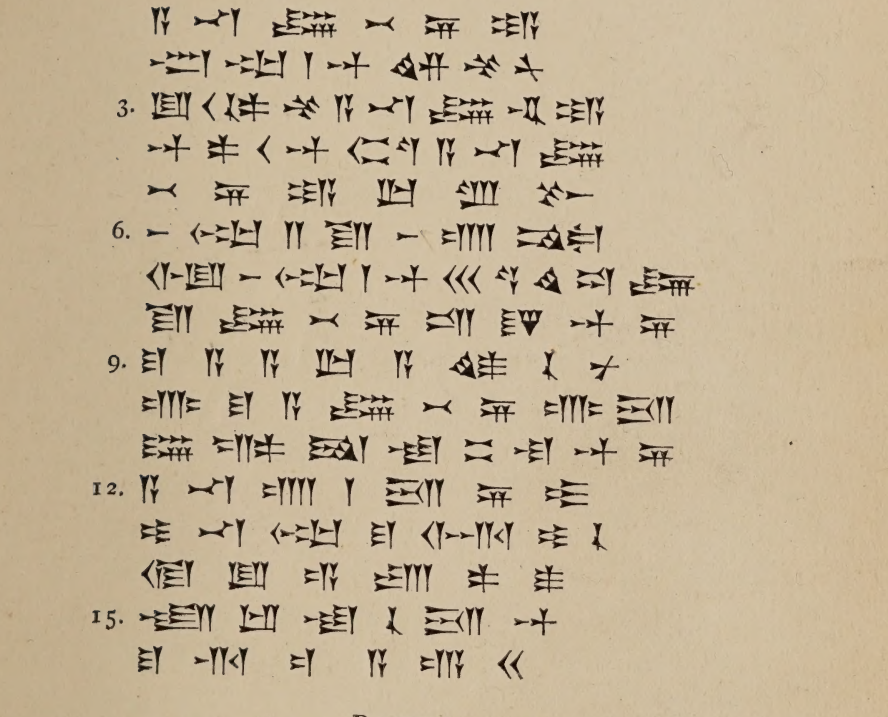
I wish especially to acknowledge my great indebtedness to Mr. THEO. G. PINCHES for his kindness in collating, with my copies, about three-fourths of the inscriptions published in this volume. I have received from him many valuable suggestions and corrections which have materially aided me in the study of these texts.

ROBERT FRANCIS HARPER.

LONDON, 3, UPPER BEDFORD PLACE,
August 2nd, 1892.

[1.] K. 167.

Obverse.



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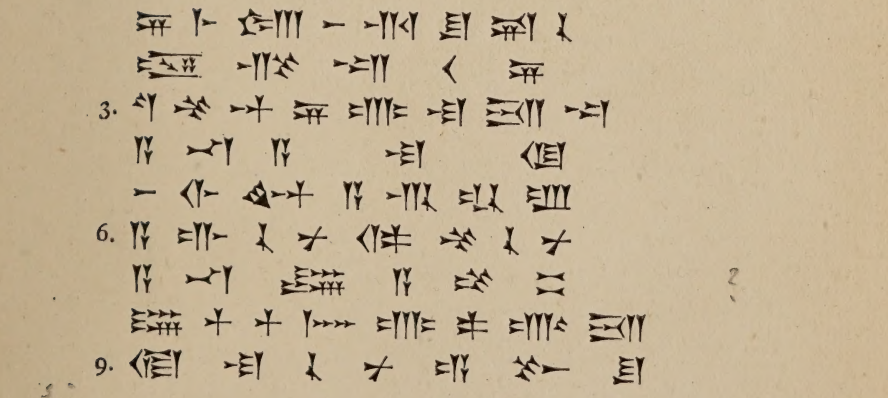
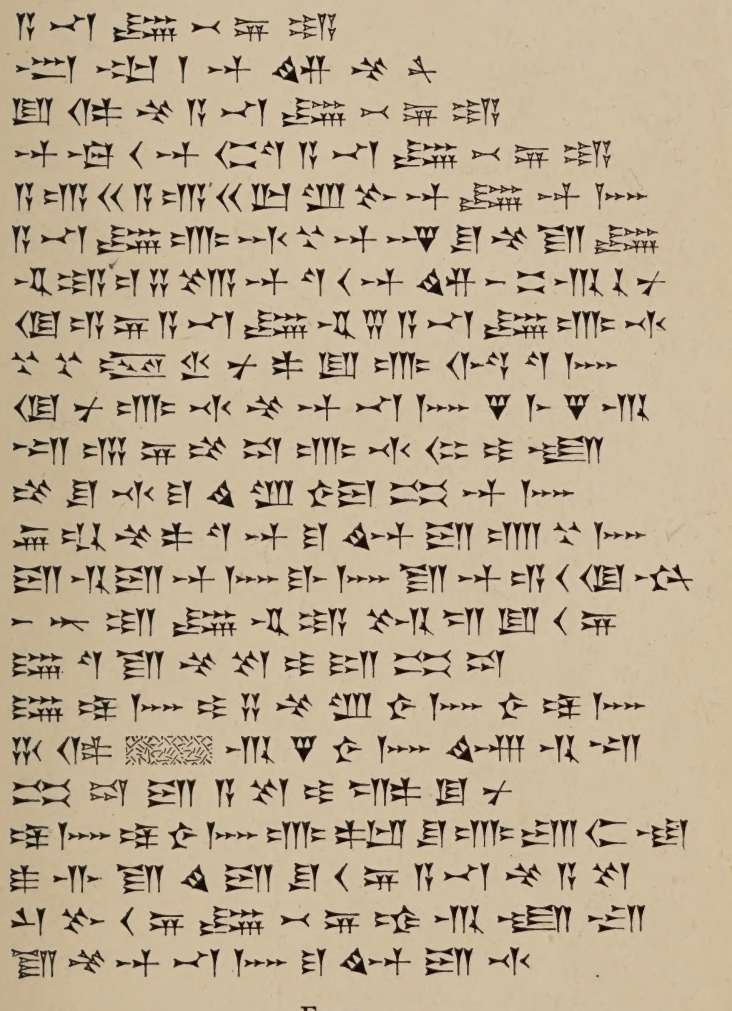


[2.] K. 183.

Obverse.



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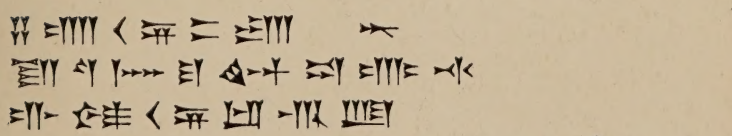
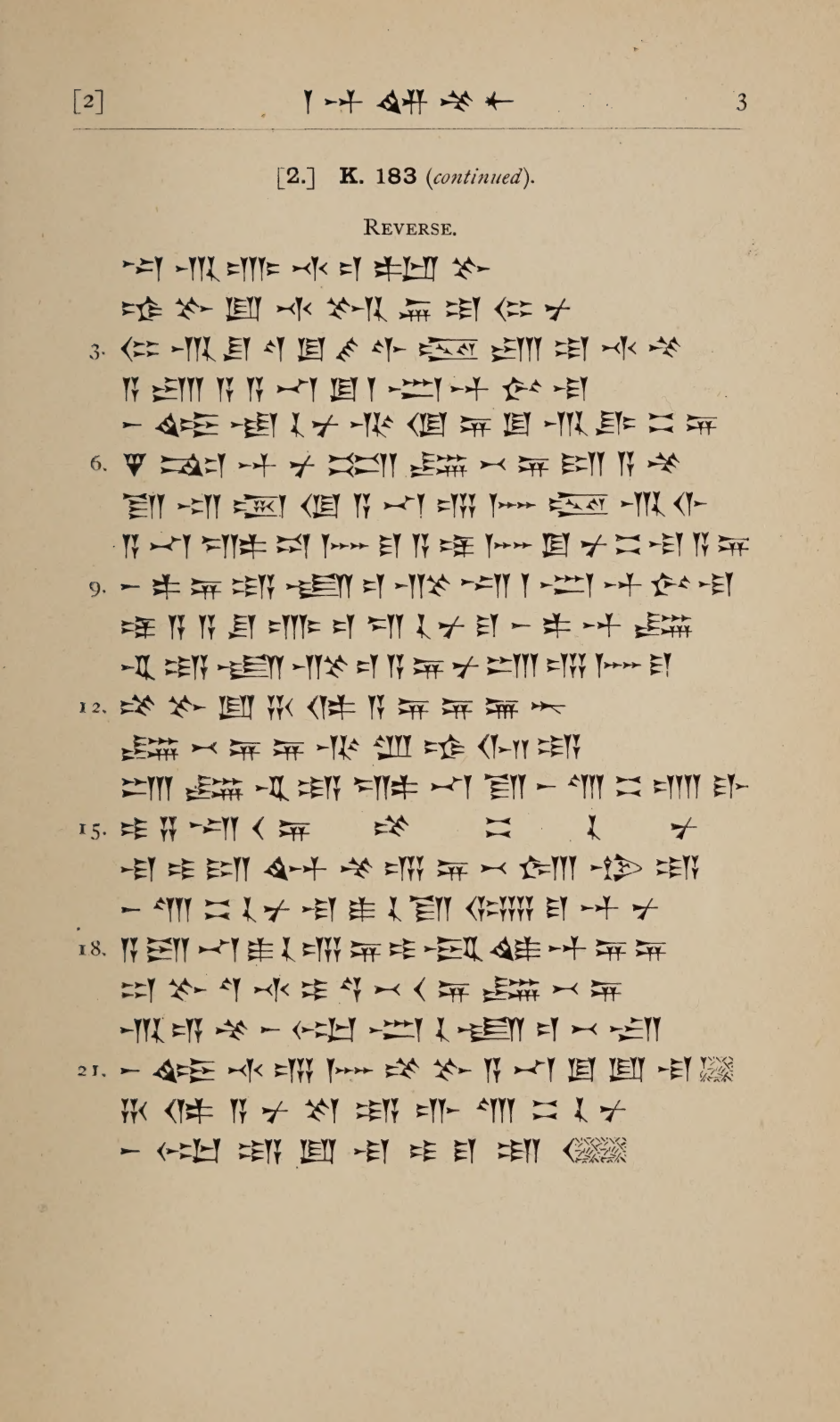


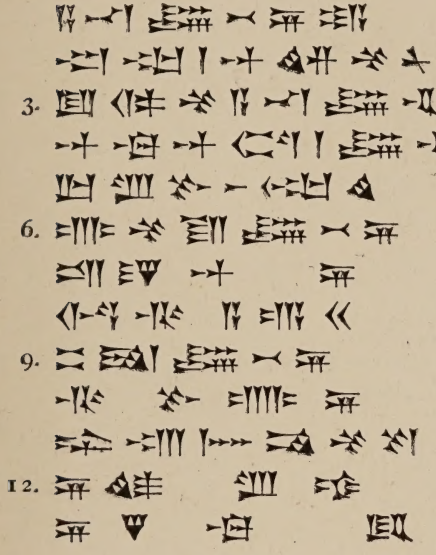
[2.] K. 183 (*continued*).

Reverse.



[3.] K. 492.

Obverse.



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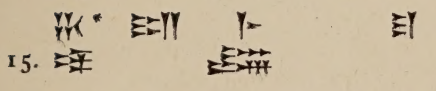

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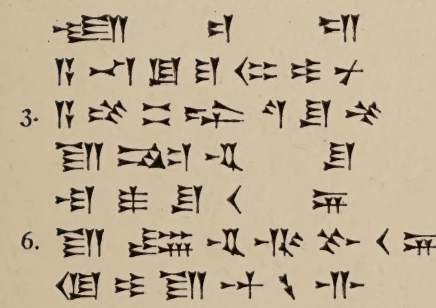
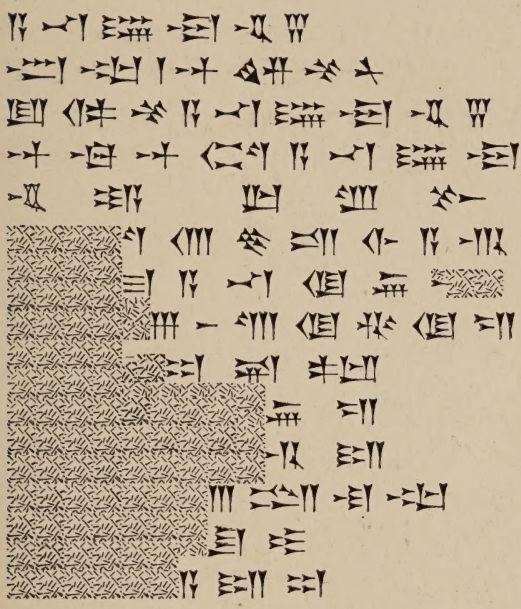


[1] This character is certain. Mr. S. A. Smith reads .

[4.] K. 568.

Obverse.



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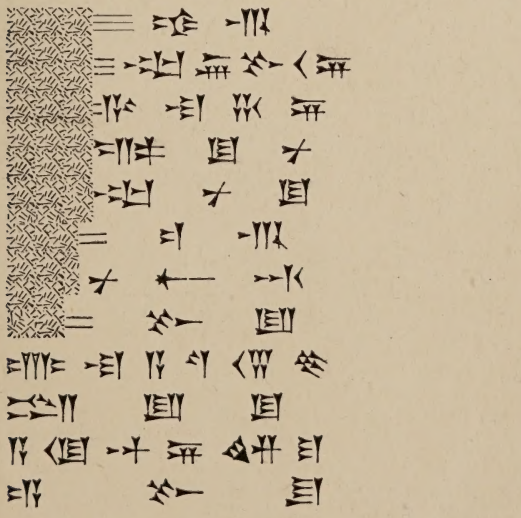
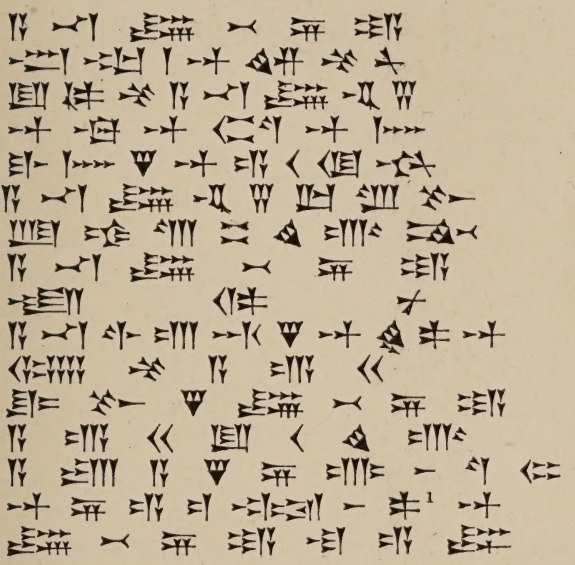


[5.] K. 583.

Obverse.



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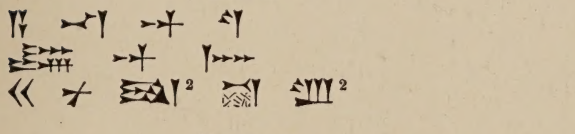

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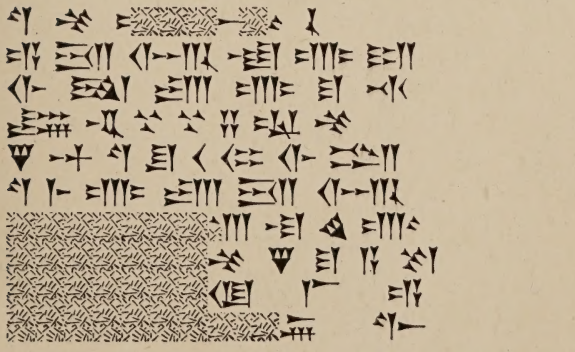

[1] Written over an erasure. [2] Badly rubbed.

[5.] K. 583 (*continued*).

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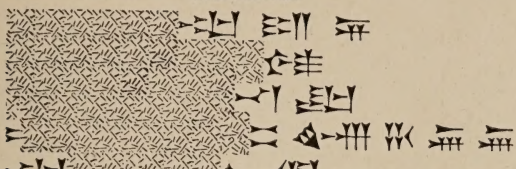
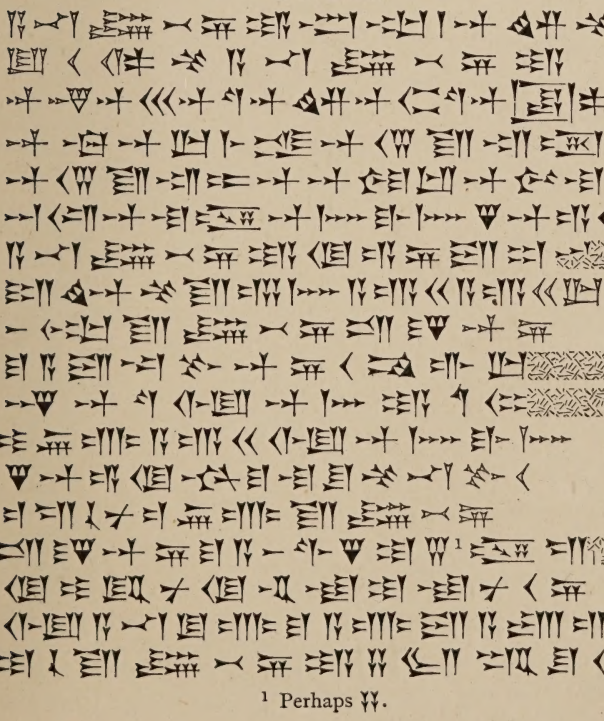


EDGE.

SIDE-EDGE.

[6.] K. 595.

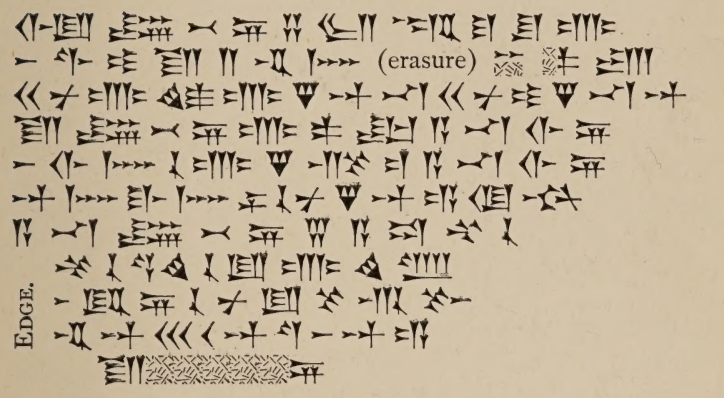
OBVERSE.



[1] Perhaps .

[6.] K. 595 *(continued)*.

Obverse.



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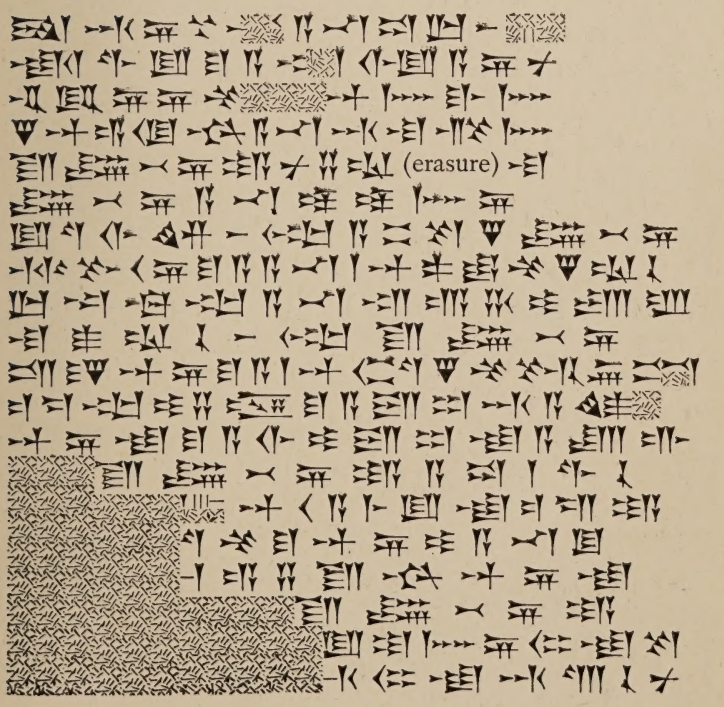

[7.] K. 601.

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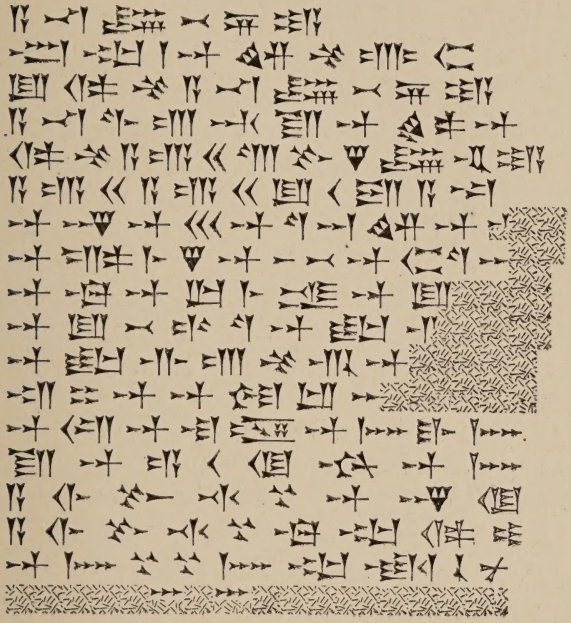

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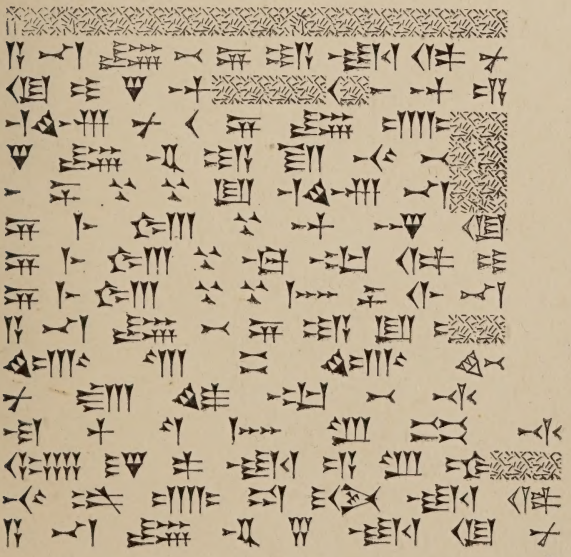

[8.] K. 612.

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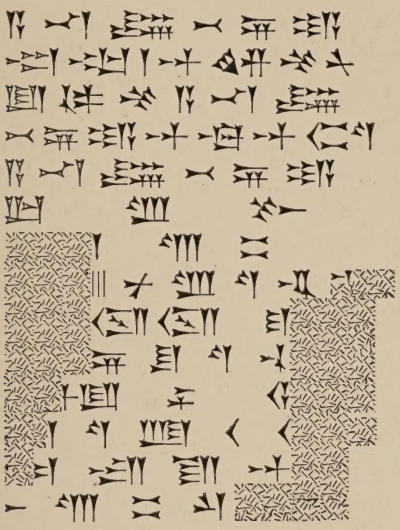
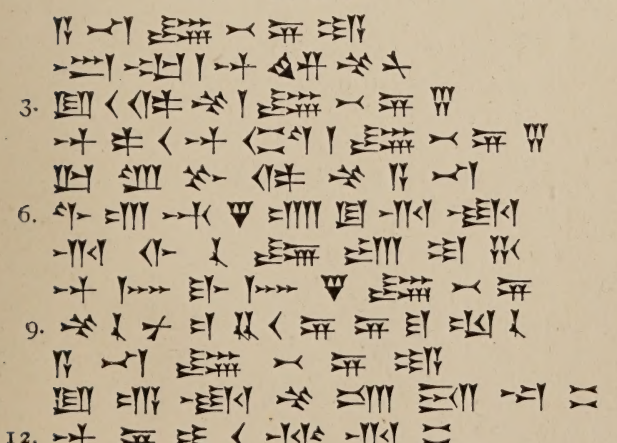


Reverse completely broken away.

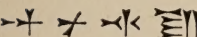
[9.] K. 618.

OBVERSE.



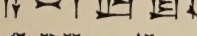
[9.] K. 618 (*continued*).

OBVERSE.

15. 

(erasure)

EDGE.

18. 

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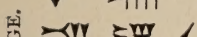
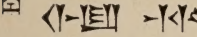
3. 

6. 

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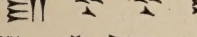
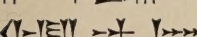
12. 

15. 

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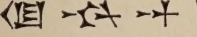
18. 

[10.] K. 641.

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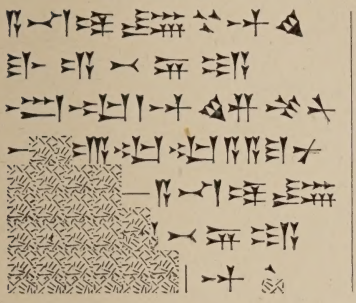

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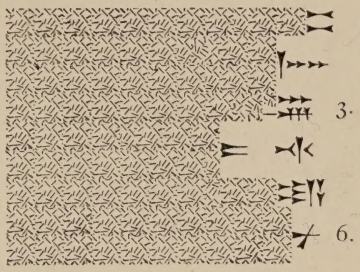
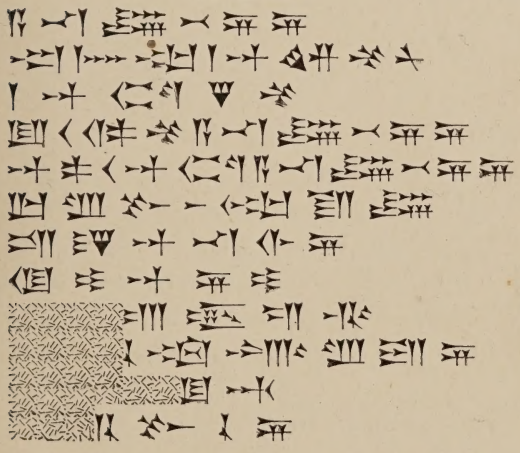


5–6 lines broken away from Obverse.

[11.] K. 643.

Obverse.



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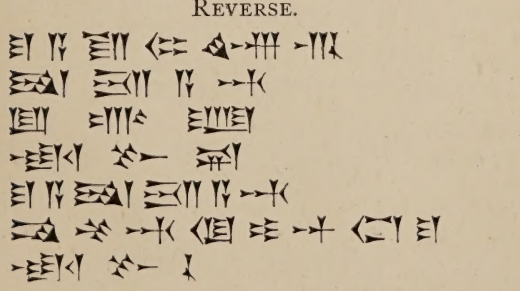
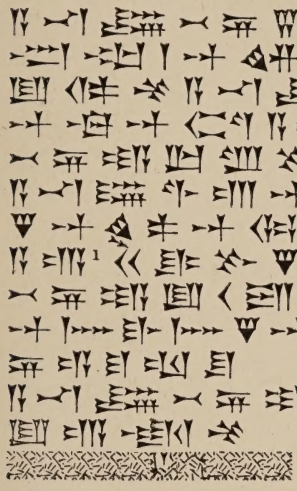


[12.] K. 666.

Obverse.



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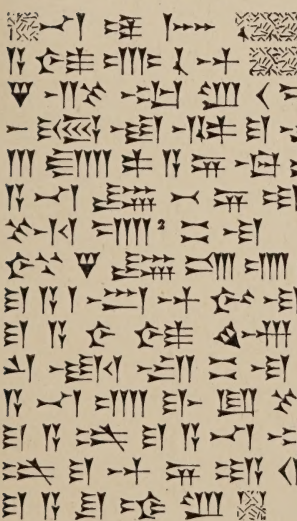


[1] Written .

[2] = .

[3] = .

[13.] K. 1040.

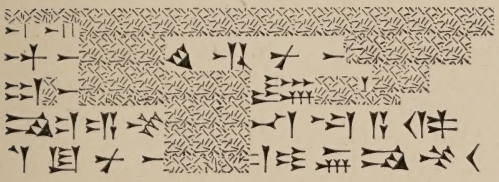
Obverse.

Reverse broken away.

[14.] K. 1087.

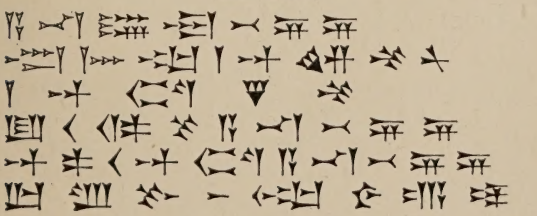
Obverse.

Reverse.



[15.] K. 1197.

Obverse.



[15.] K. 1197 (*continued*).

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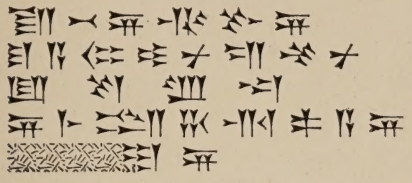

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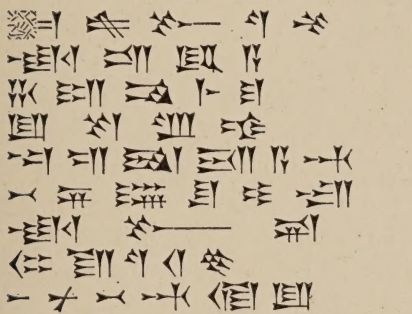

[16.] K. 1428.

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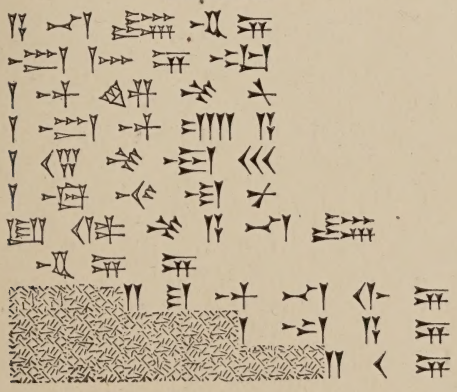

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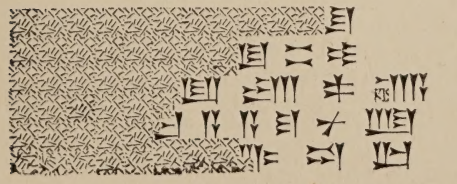
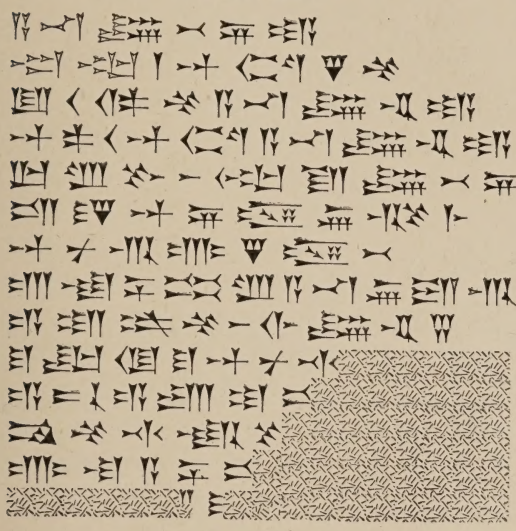


[17.] K. 472.

OBVERSE.



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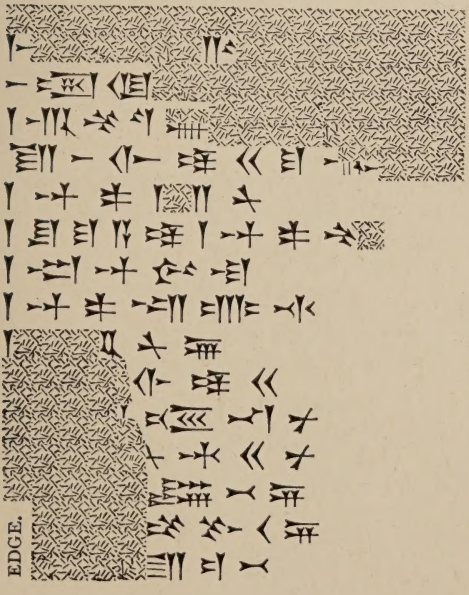
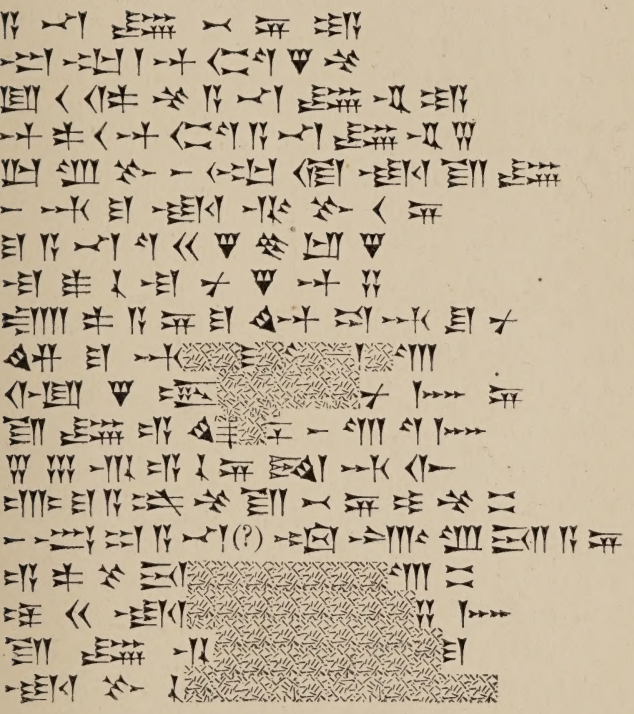


[18.] K. 490.

Obverse.



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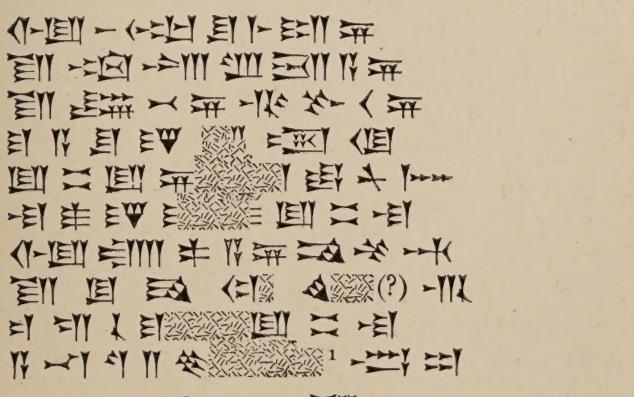
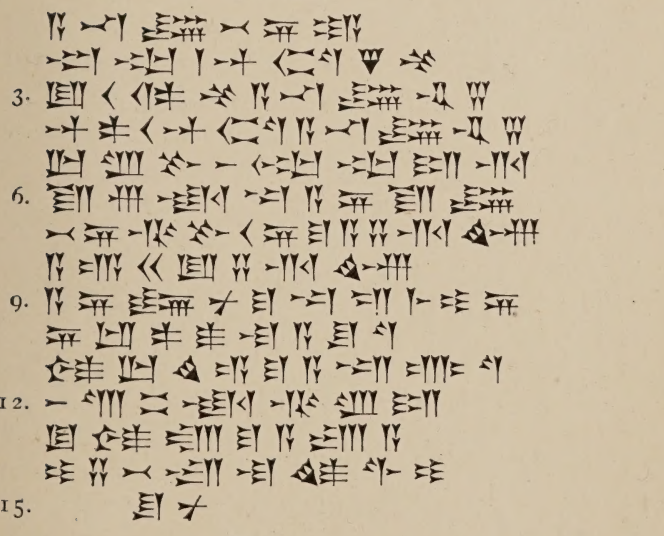


[1] Traces of .

[18.] K. 490 (*continued*).

[19.] K. 494.

Obverse.



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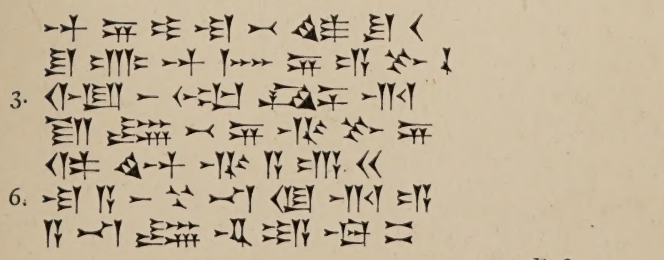
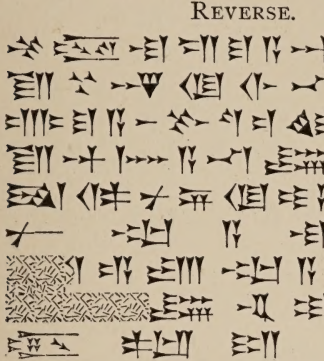


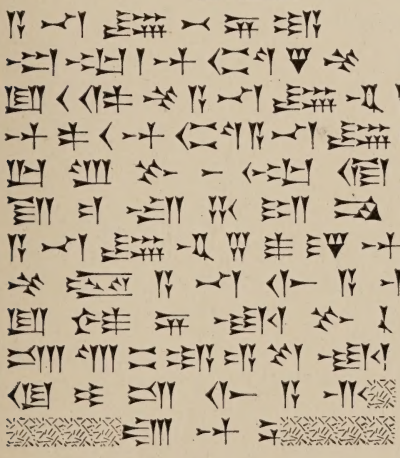
[19.] K. 494 (*continued*).

Reverse.

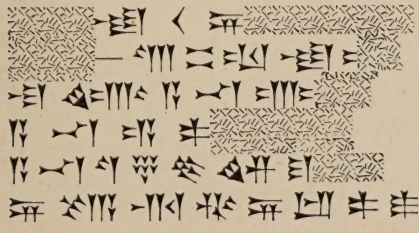


[20.] K. 495.

Obverse.

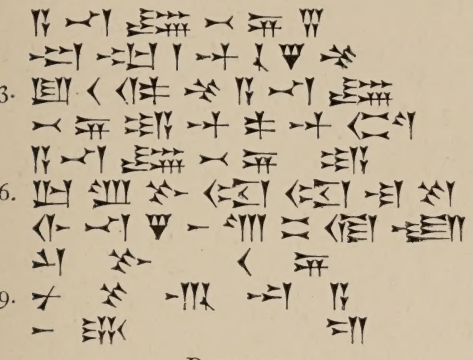


Reverse.

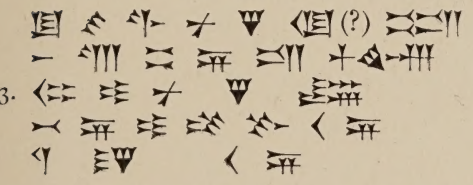


[21.] K. 511.

OBVERSE.

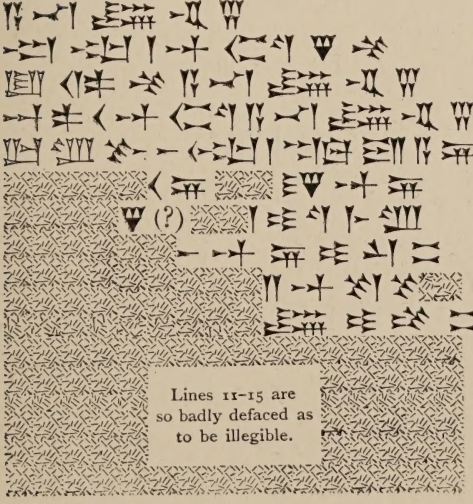


REVERSE.



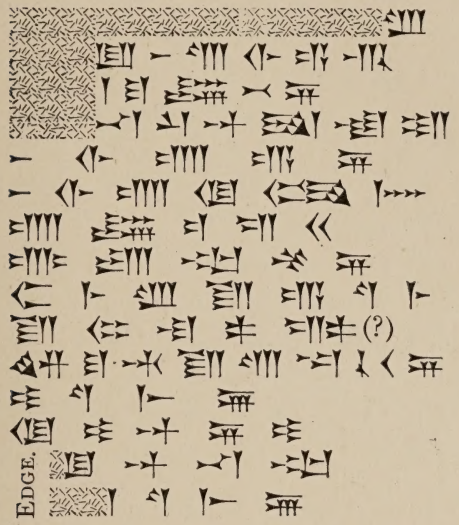
[22.] K. 591.

OBVERSE.



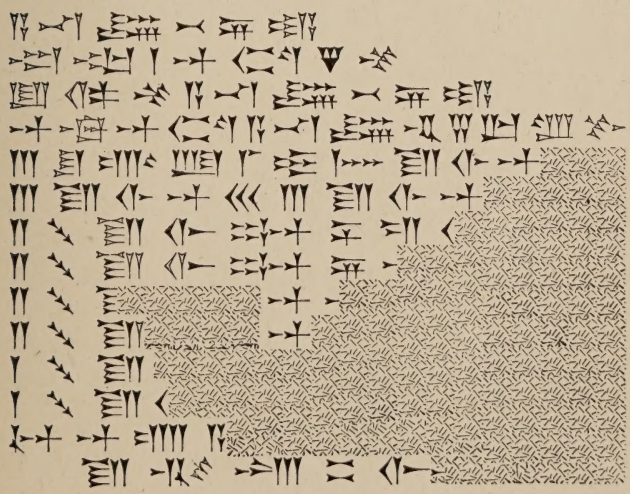
[22.] K. 591 (*continued*).

Reverse.



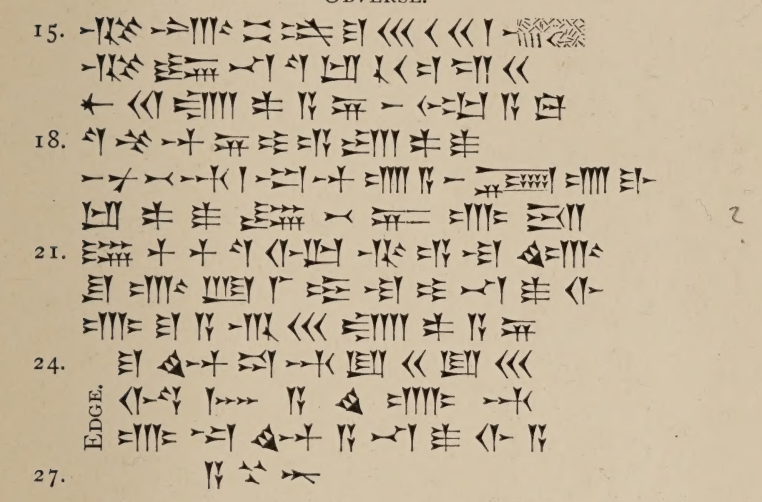
[23.] K. 602.

Obverse.

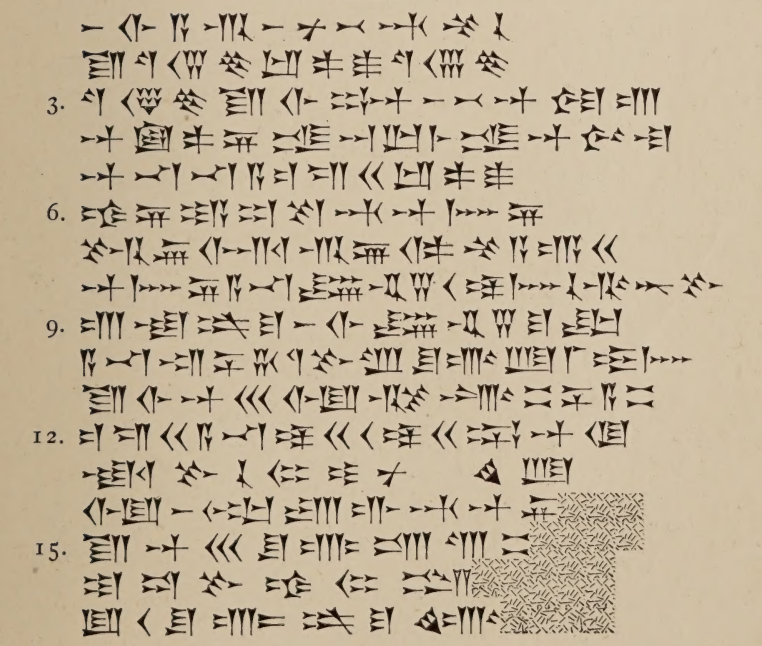


[23.] K. 602 (*continued*).

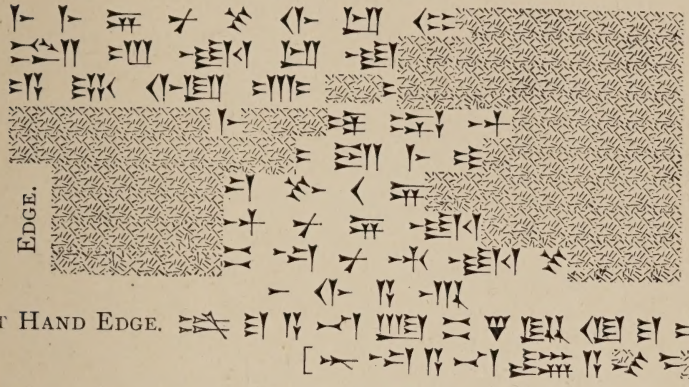
Obverse.



Reverse.



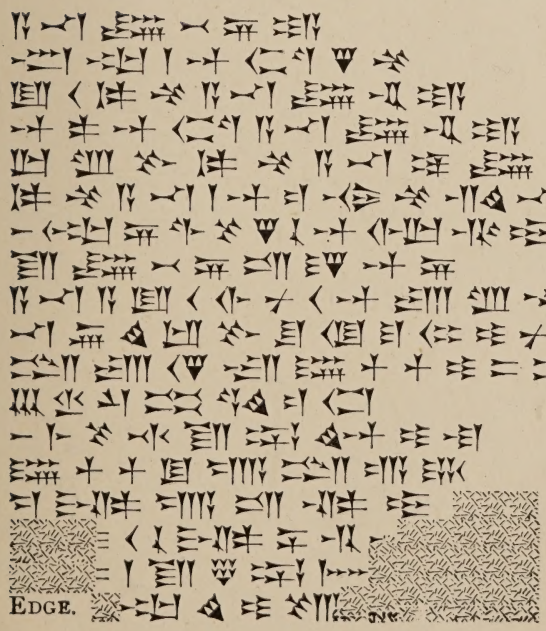
[23.] K. 602 (*continued*).



Left Hand Edge.

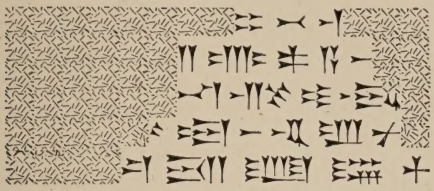
[24.] K. 626.

Obverse.



[24.] K. 626 (*continued*).

REVERSE.

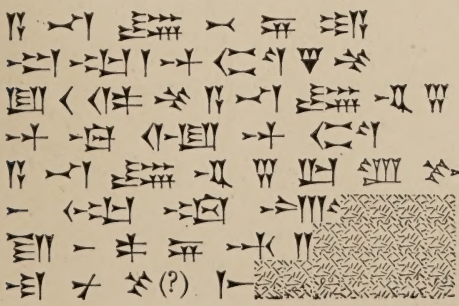


EDGE.

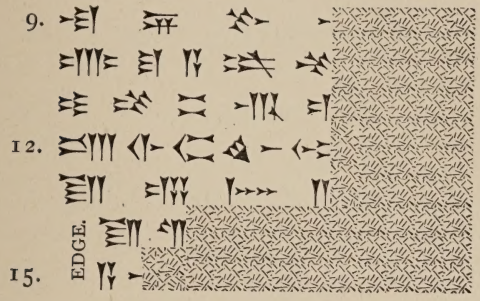
LEFT HAND EDGE.

[25.] K. 639.

OBVERSE.

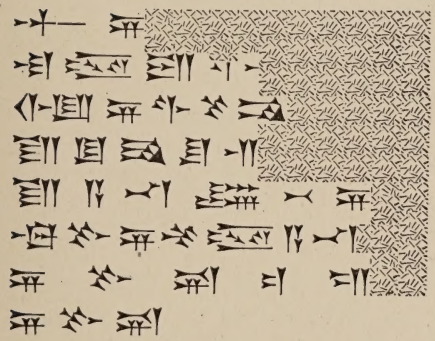


[25.] K. 639 (*continued*).



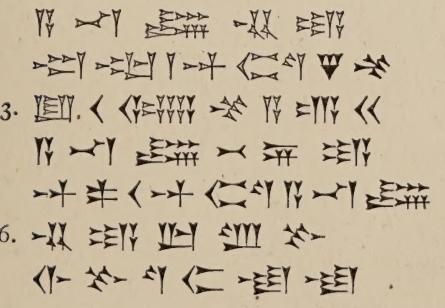
EDGE.

Reverse.



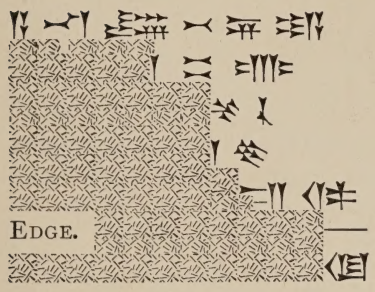
[26.] K. 4780.

Obverse.

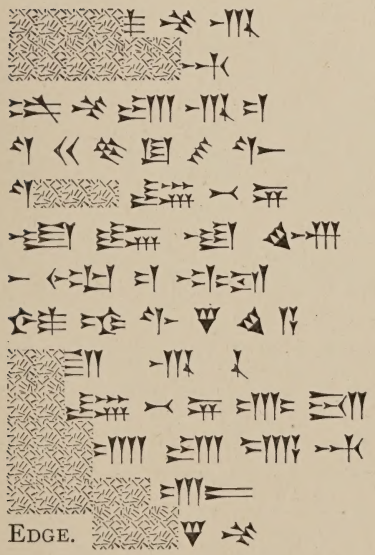


[26.] K. 4780 (*continued*).

Obverse.

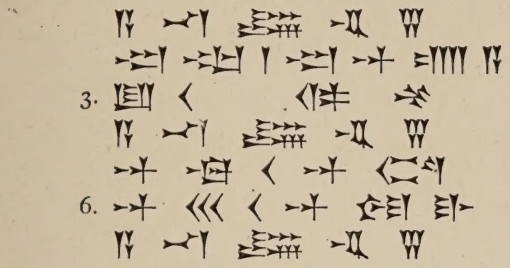


Reverse.



[27.] K. 1022.

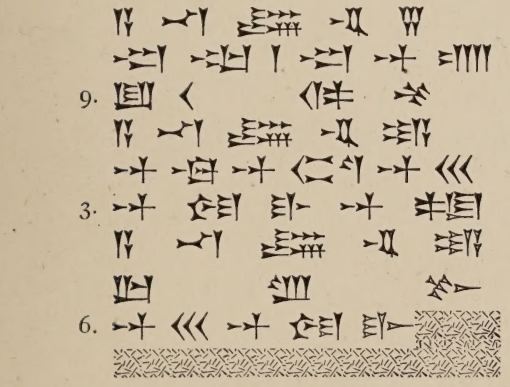
OBVERSE.



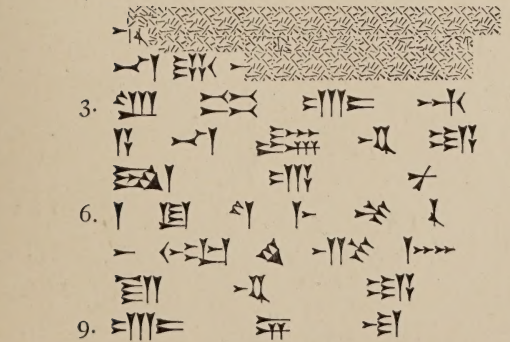
Several lines broken away. No Reverse.

[28.] K. 1024.

OBVERSE.

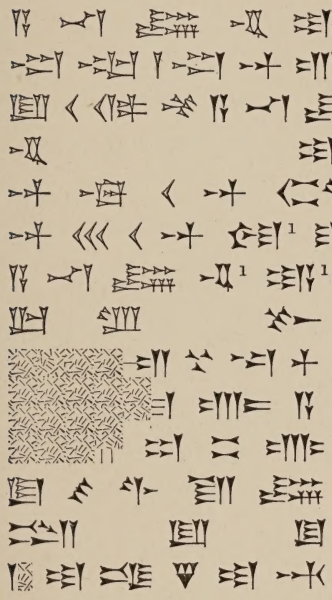


REVERSE.

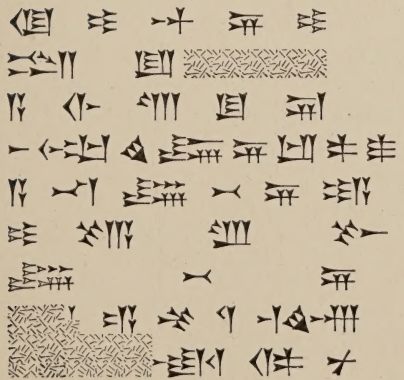


[29.] K. 1204.

OBVERSE.



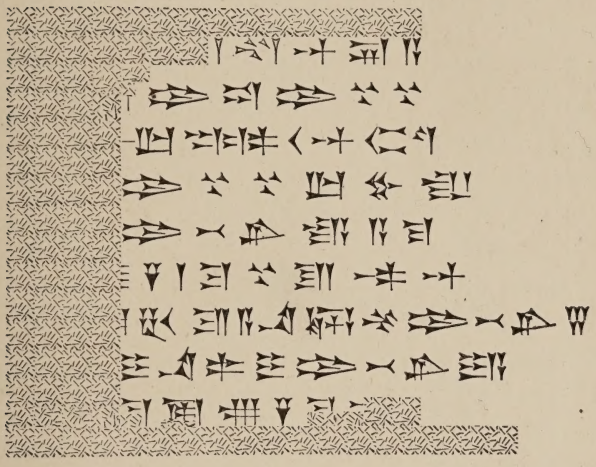
REVERSE.



[1] Badly rubbed.

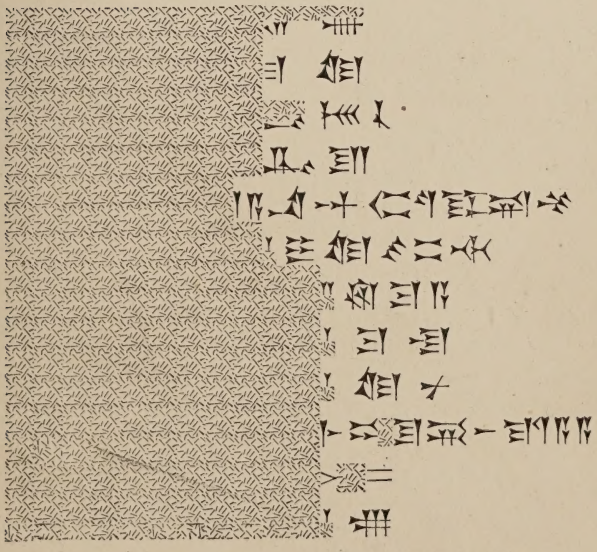
[30.] K. 7426.

OBVERSE.



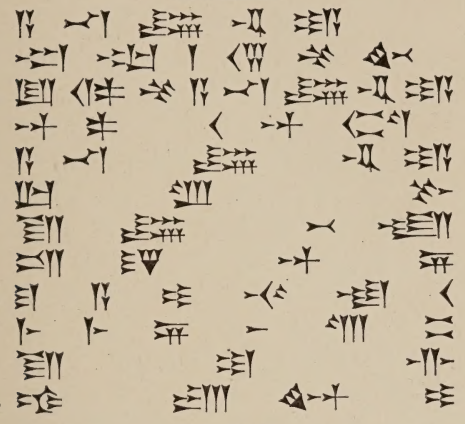
Several lines broken away.

REVERSE.

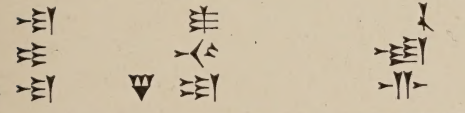


[31.] K. 522.

Obverse.

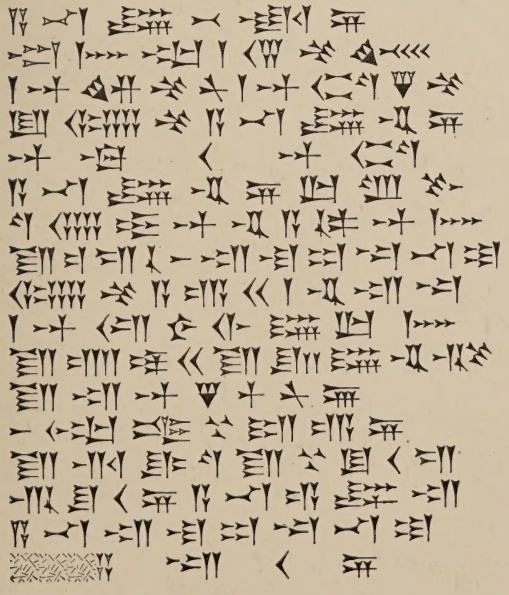


Reverse.



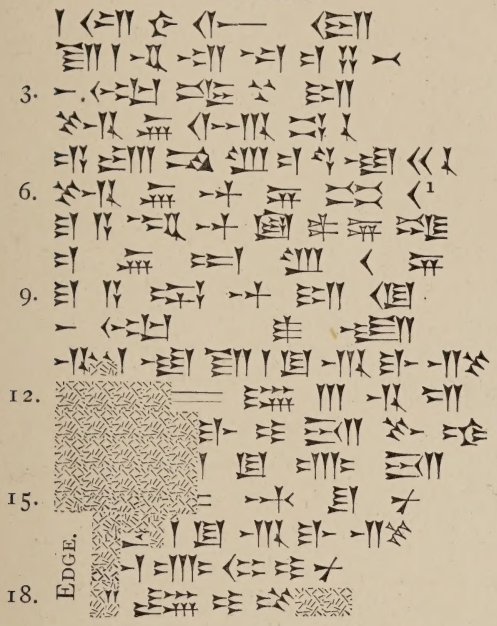
[32.] K. 527.

Obverse.



[32.] K. 527 (*continued*).

REVERSE.

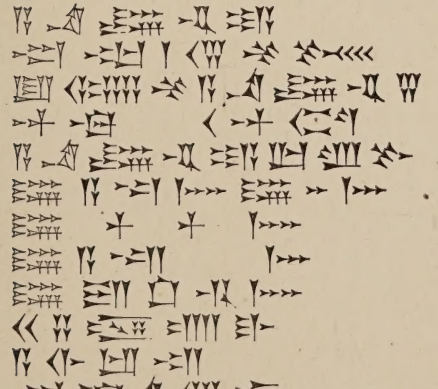


EDGE.

[1] Or .

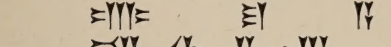
[33.] K. 572.

OBVERSE.



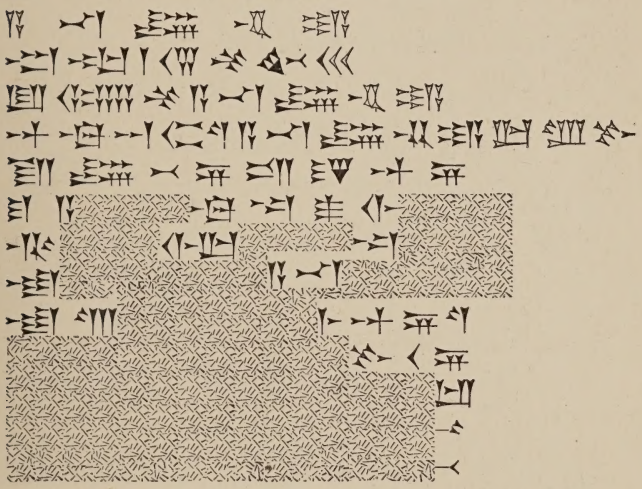
[33.] K. 572 (*continued*).

Reverse.

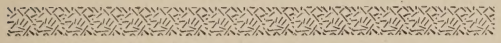


[34.] K. 981.

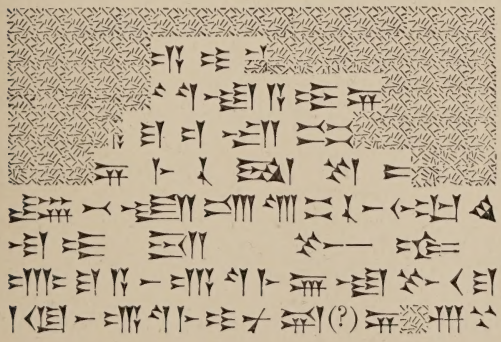
Obverse.



Lines 9–15 are so badly defaced as to be illegible.

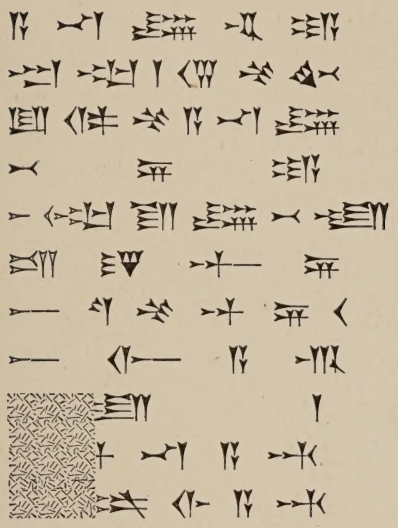


Reverse.

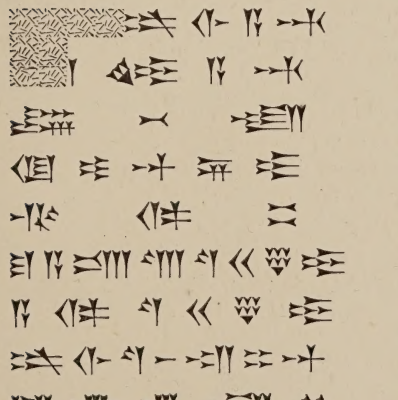


[35.] K. 983.

Obverse.

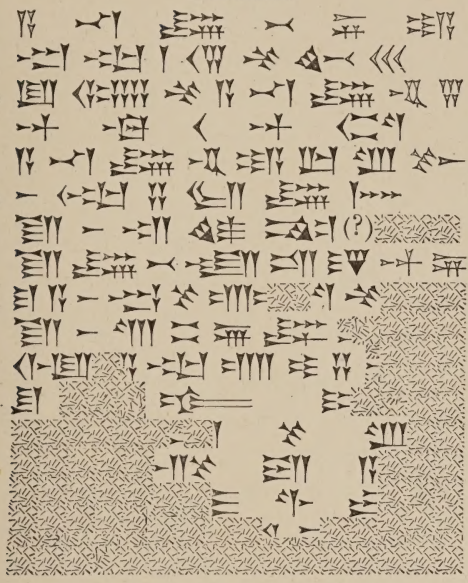


Reverse.

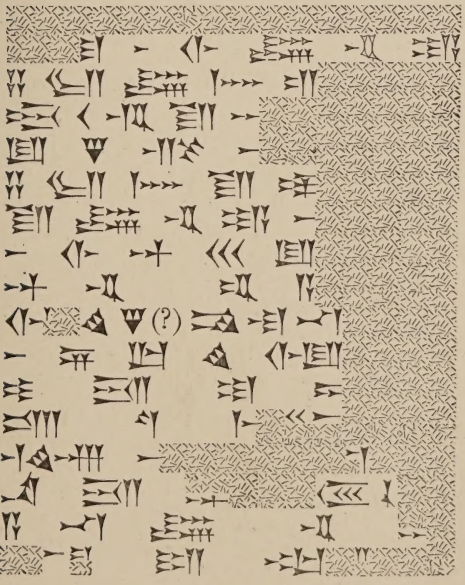


[36.] K. 1032.

OBVERSE.

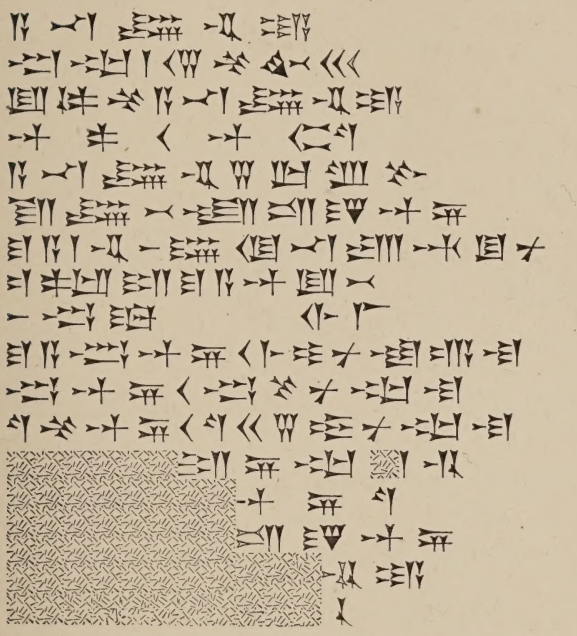


REVERSE.



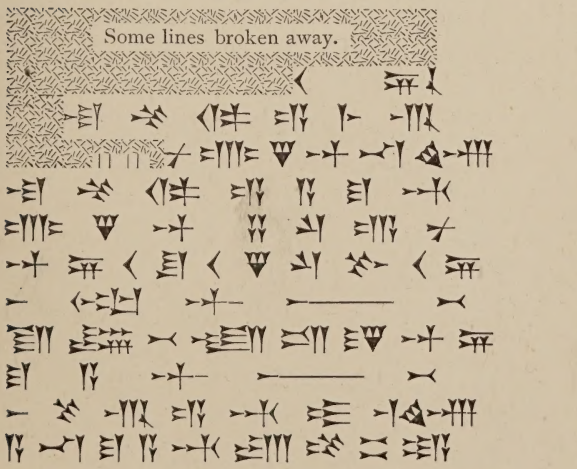
[37.] K. 1039.

Obverse.



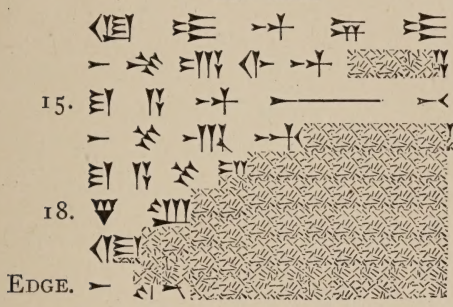
Reverse.

Some lines broken away.



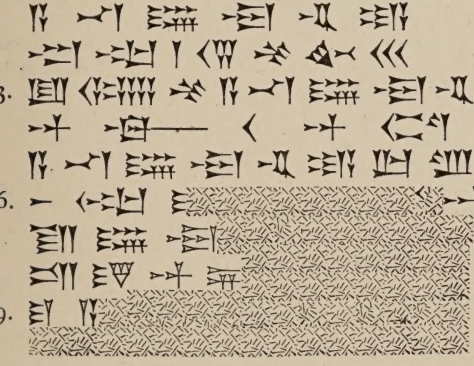
[37.] K. 1039 (*continued*).

Reverse.

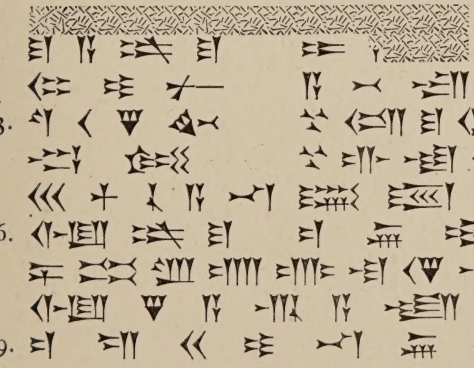


[38.] K. 1049.

Obverse.

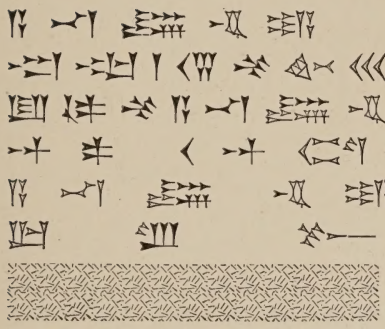


Reverse.



[39.] K. 1082.

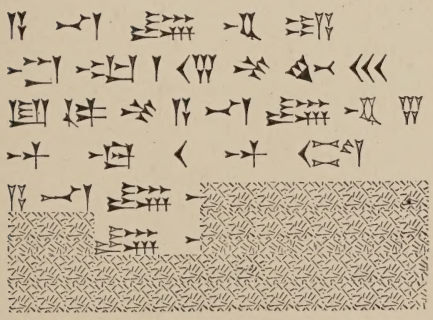
OBVERSE.



No Reverse.

[40.] K. 1540.

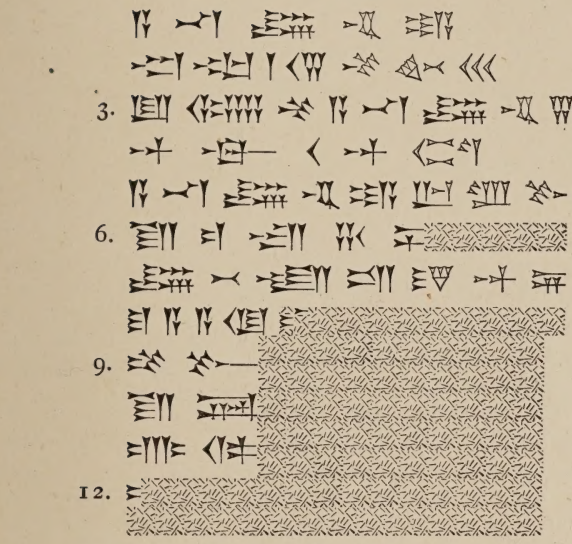
OBVERSE.



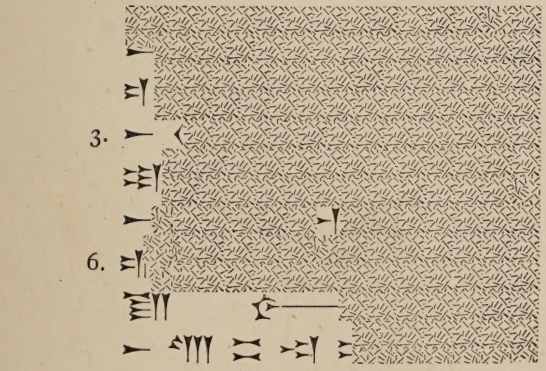
Reverse broken off.

[41.] K. 2909.

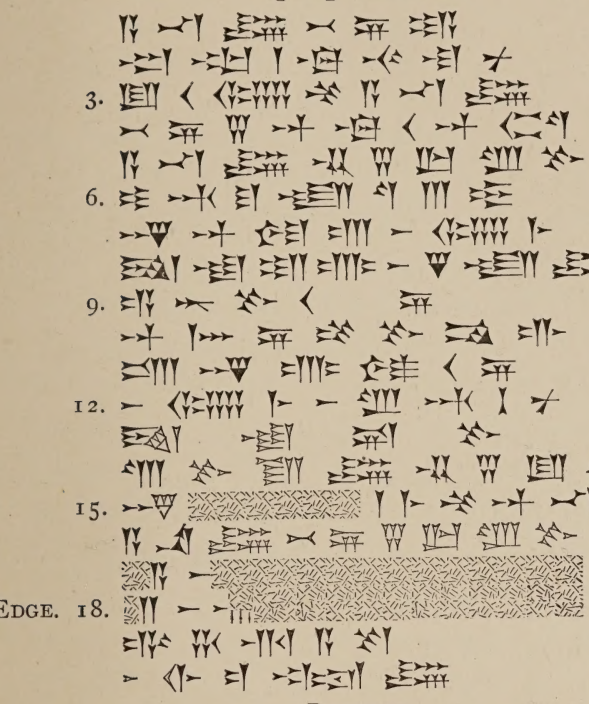
Obverse.



Reverse.



[42.] K. 14.

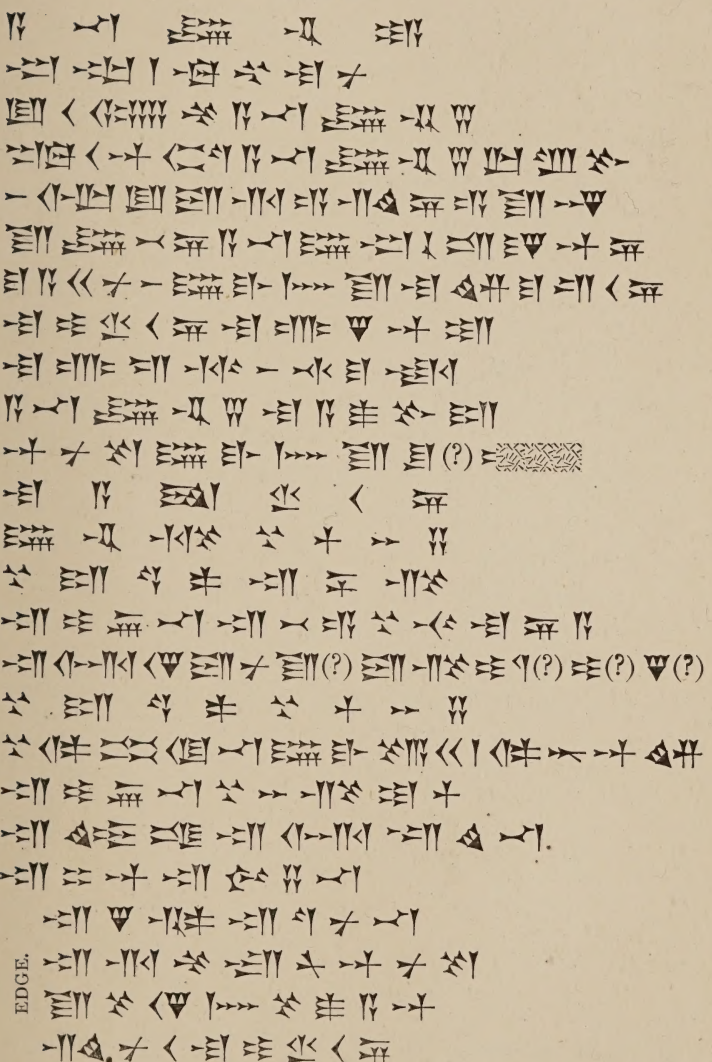


EDGE.

REVERSE.

[43.] K. 122.

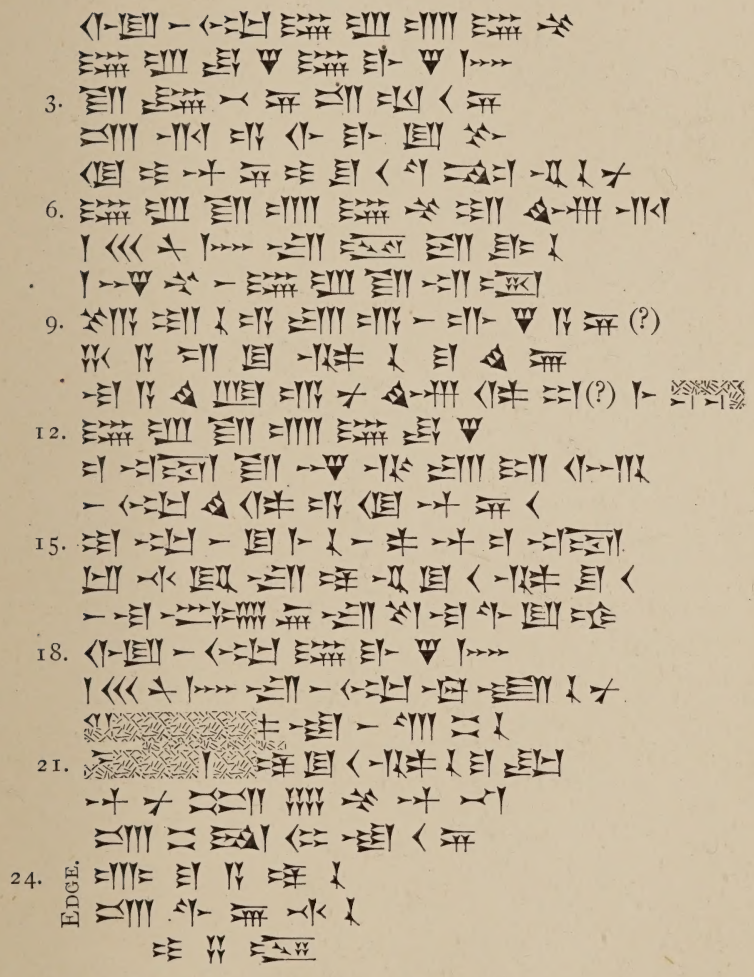
OBVERSE.



EDGE.

[43.] K. 122 (*continued*).

REVERSE.

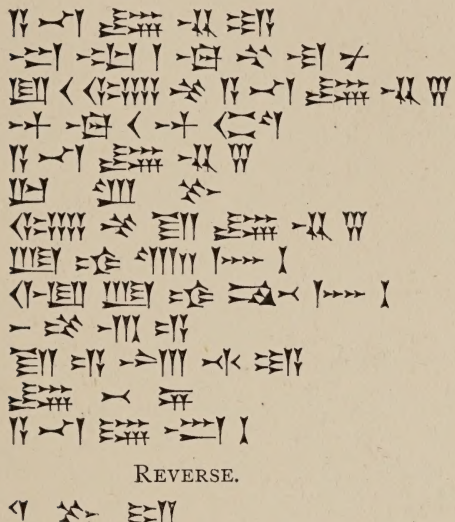


EDGE.

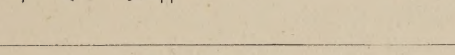
LEFT SIDE EDGE.

[44.] K. 604.

OBVERSE.

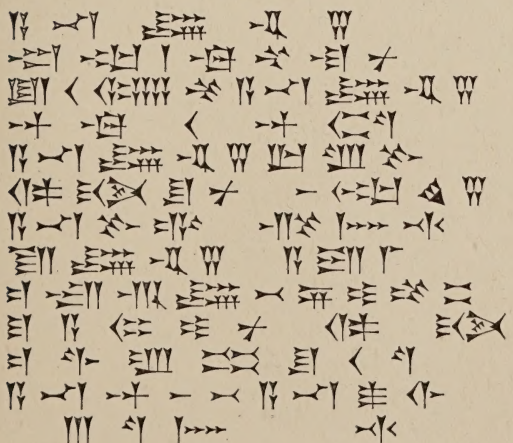


REVERSE.



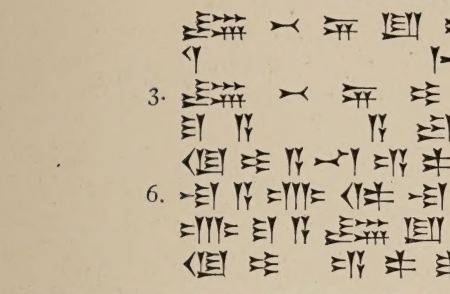
[45.] K. 691.

OBVERSE.



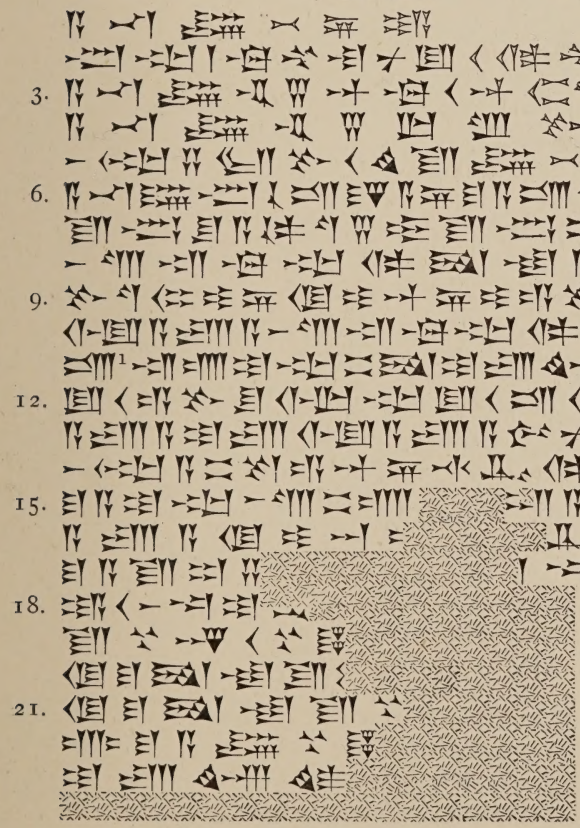
[45.] K. 691 (*continued*).

REVERSE.



[46.] K. 939a.

OBVERSE.

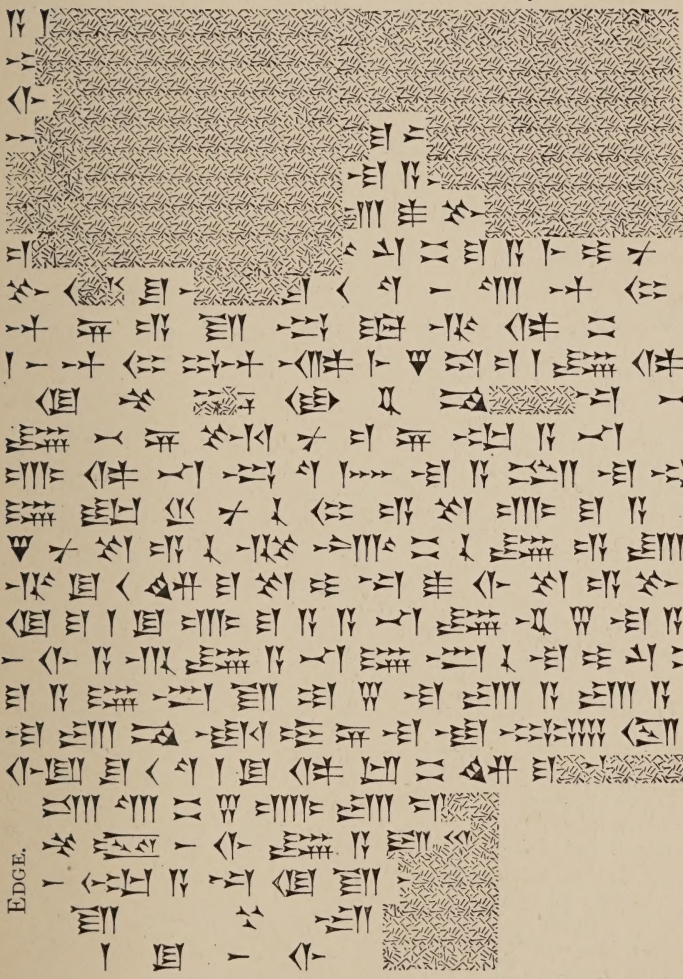


[1] Or ?

[46.] K. 939a (*continued*).

REVERSE.

Two or three lines broken away.

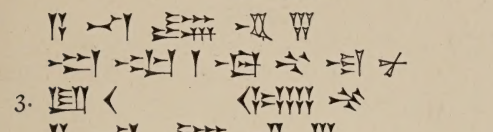


EDGE.

LEFT-HAND EDGE.

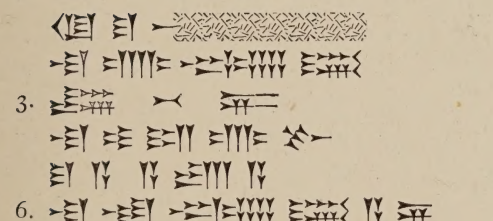
[47.] K. 979.

OBVERSE.



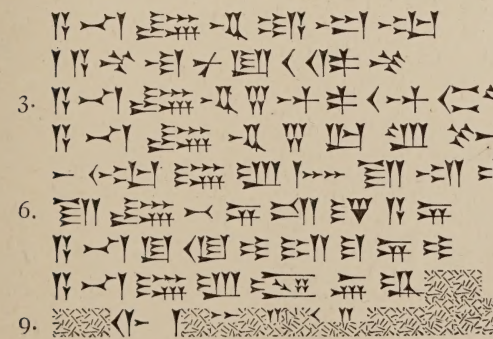
Several lines broken away.

REVERSE.



[48.] K. 1019.

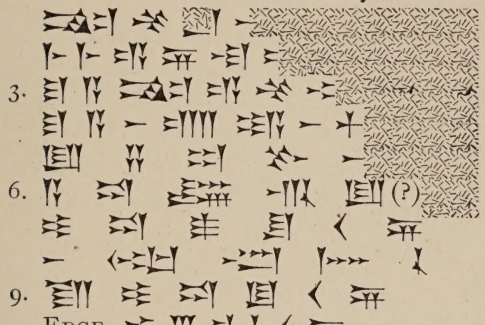
OBVERSE.



[48.] K. 1019 (*continued*).

REVERSE.

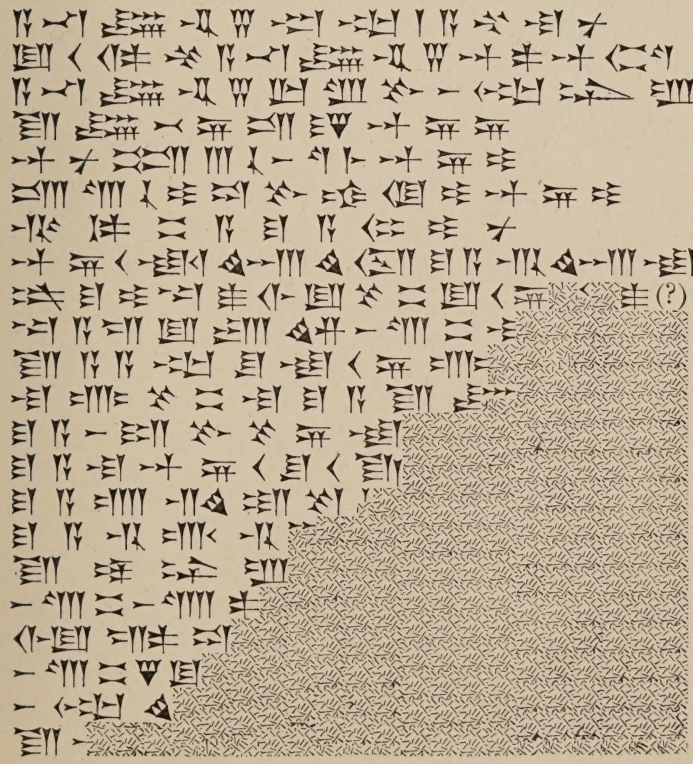
Several lines broken away.



EDGE.

[49.] K. 1168.

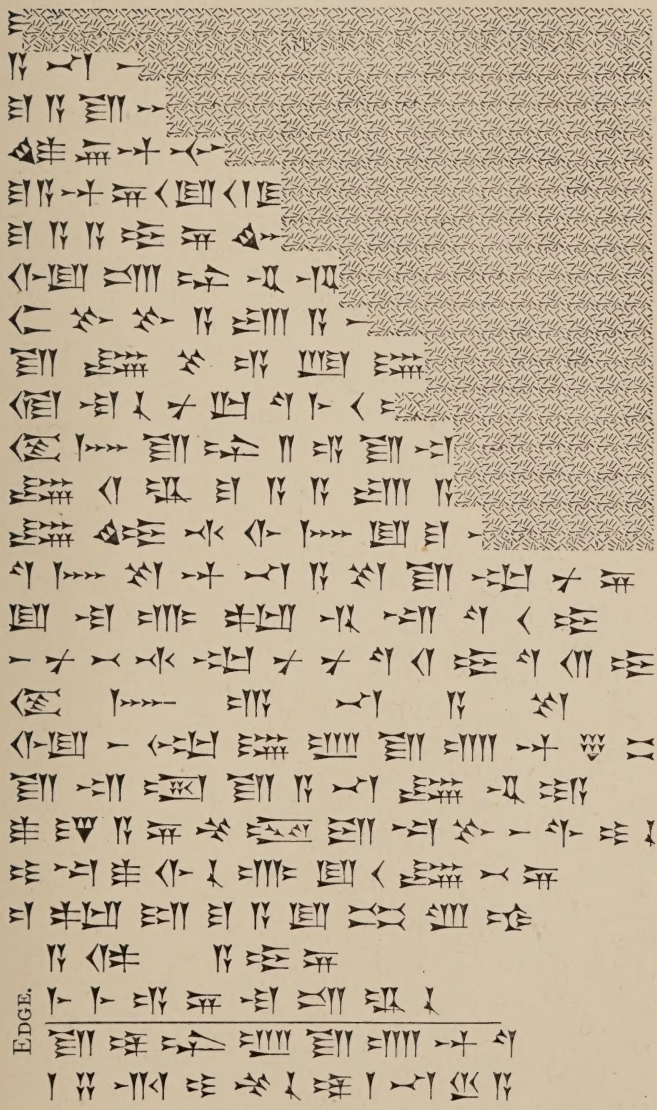
OBVERSE.



[49.] K. 1168 (*continued*).

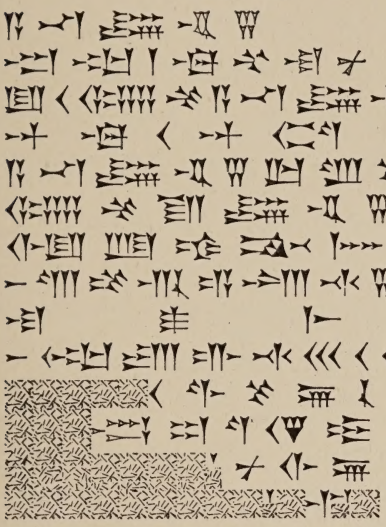
REVERSE.

Some lines broken away.



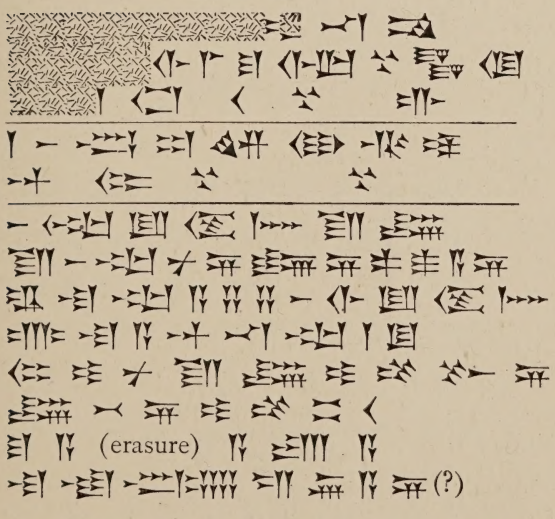
[50.] K. 1242.

OBVERSE.



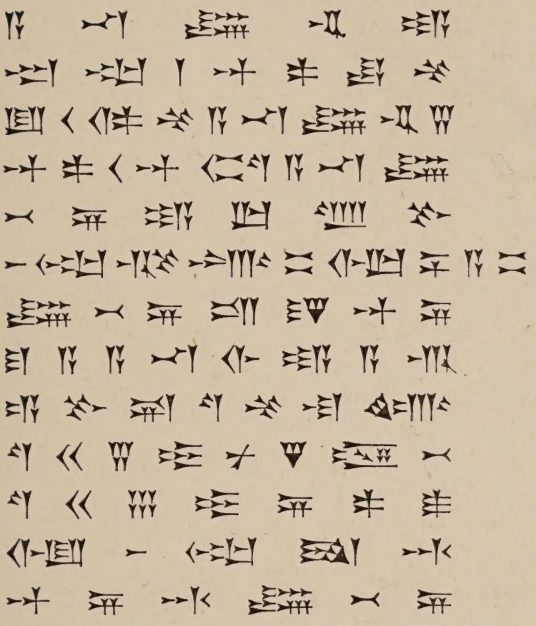
Some lines broken away.

REVERSE.

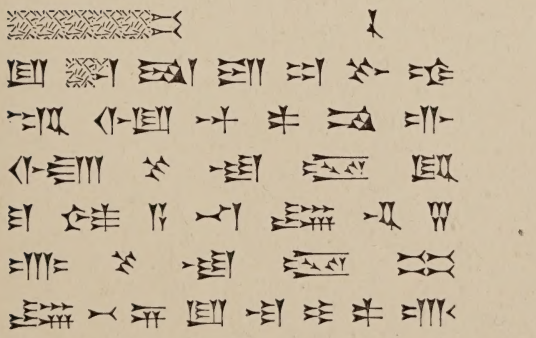


[51.] K. 21.

OBVERSE.

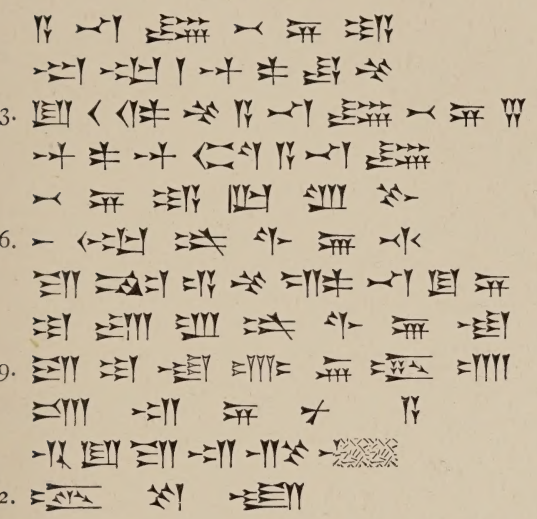


REVERSE.

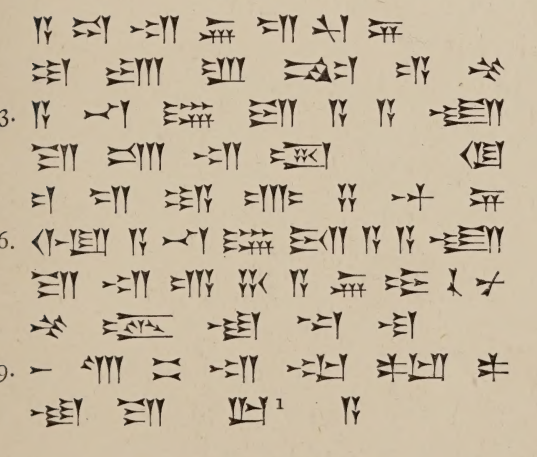


[52.] K. 80.

Obverse.



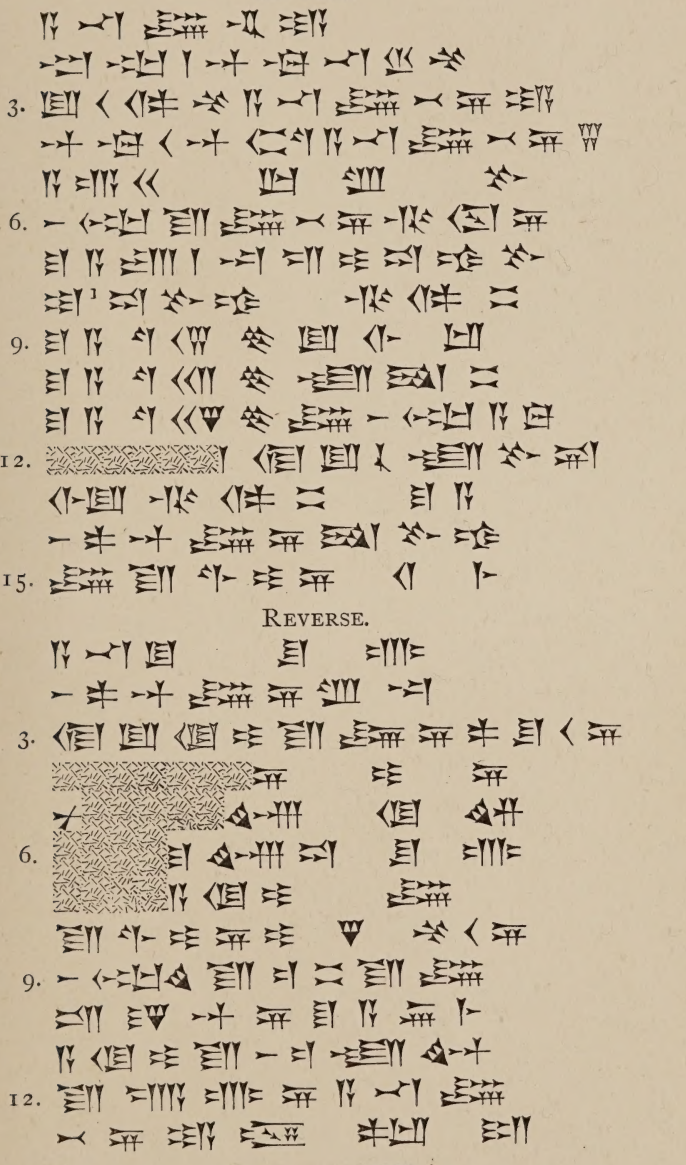
Reverse.



[1] Written over .

[53.] K. 174.

OBVERSE.

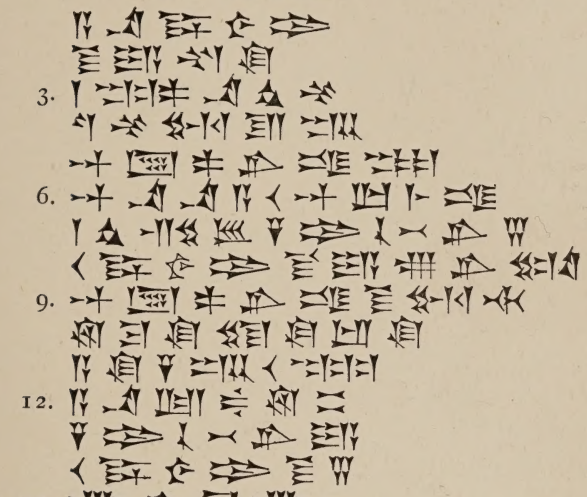


REVERSE.

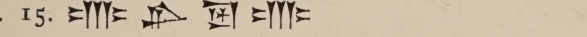
[1] Written over .

[54.] K. 476.

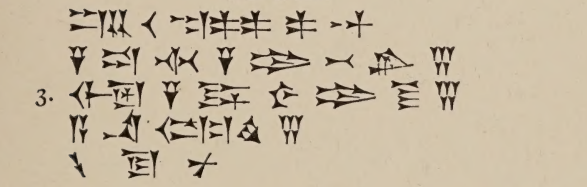
OBVERSE.



EDGE.

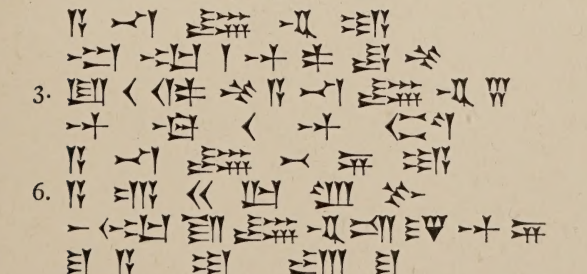


REVERSE.



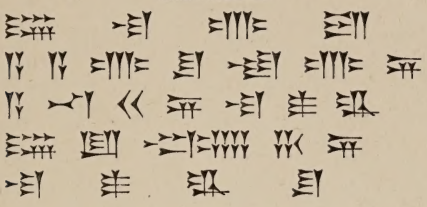
[55.] K. 483.

OBVERSE.



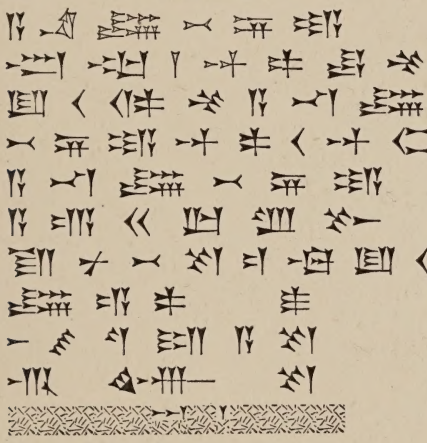
[55.] K. 483 (*continued*).

REVERSE.

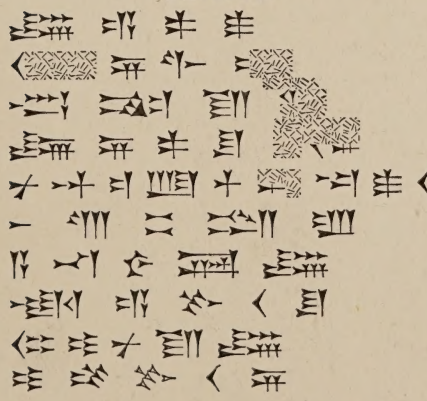


[56.] K. 649.

OBVERSE.

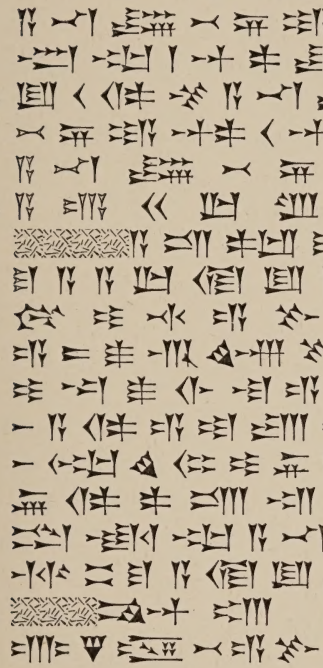


REVERSE.

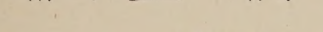


[57.] K. 687.

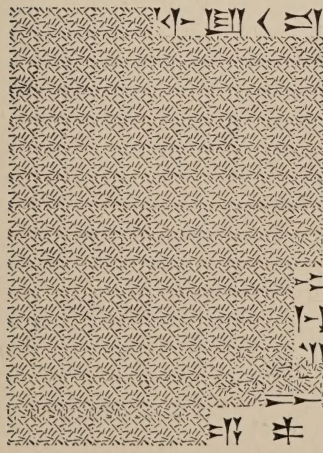
Obverse.



Edge.

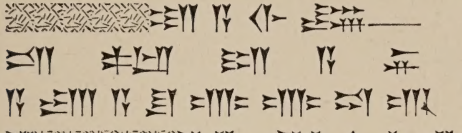


Reverse.

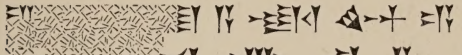


[57.] K. 687 (*continued*).

Reverse.

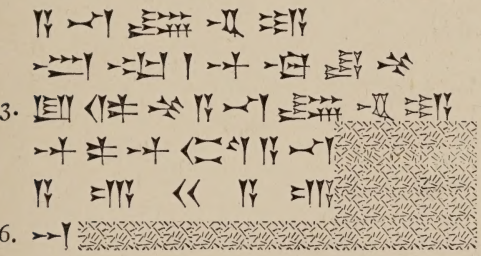


Edge.



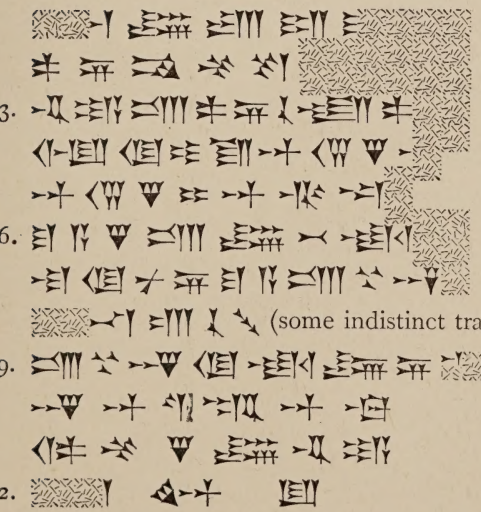
[58.] K. 1033.

Obverse.



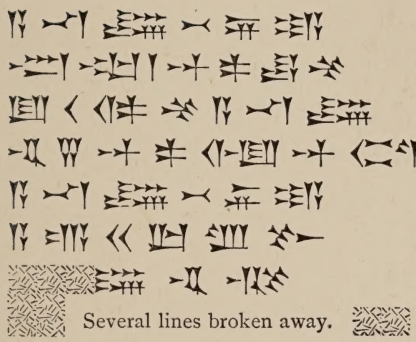
Several lines broken away.

Reverse.



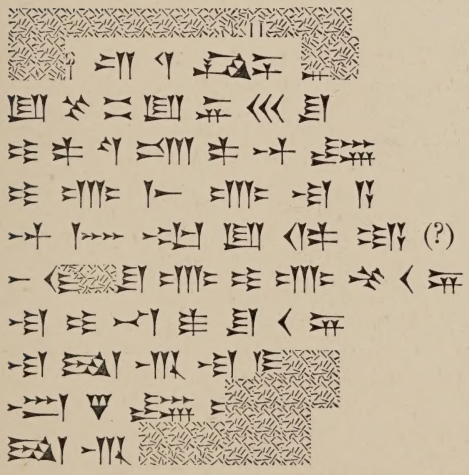
[59.] K. 1041.

Obverse.



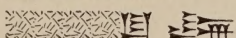
Several lines broken away.

Reverse.



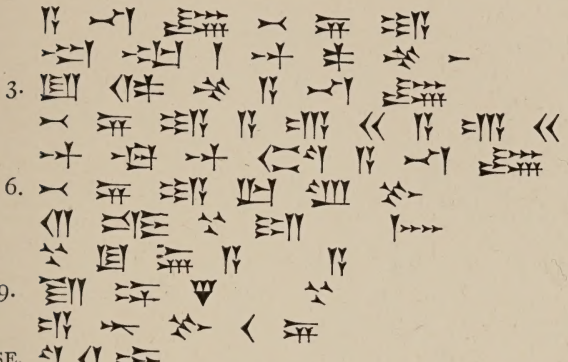
Edge.

Left-hand Edge.



[60.] K. 487.

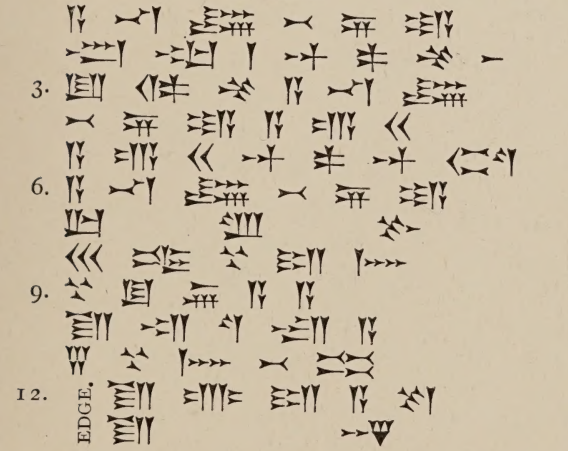
OBVERSE.



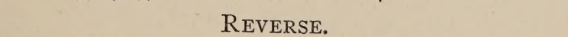
REVERSE.

[61.] K. 529.

OBVERSE.



EDGE.

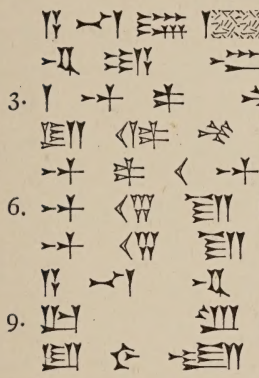


REVERSE.

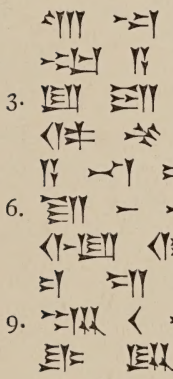
Remnants of 5 lines, so badly defaced as to be illegible

[62.] K. 547.

Obverse.

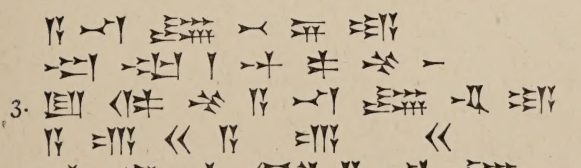


Reverse.

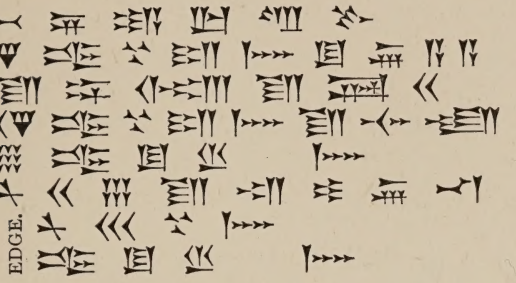


[63.] K. 549.

Obverse.



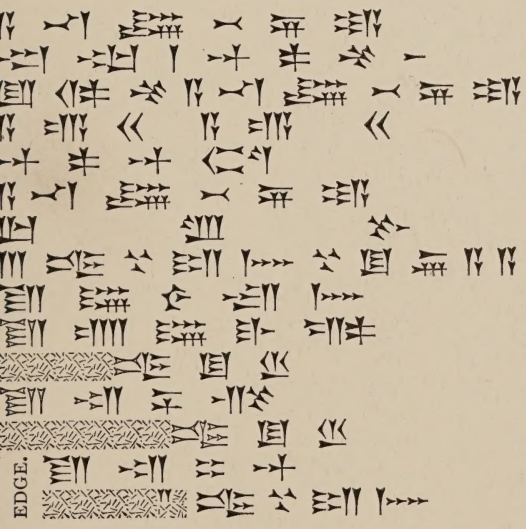
[63.] K. 549 (*continued*).



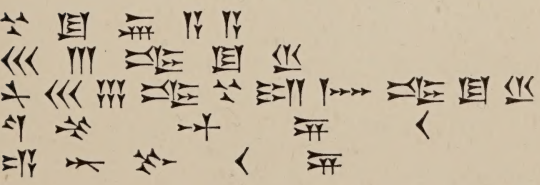
Reverse broken away.

[64.] K. 550.

OBVERSE.

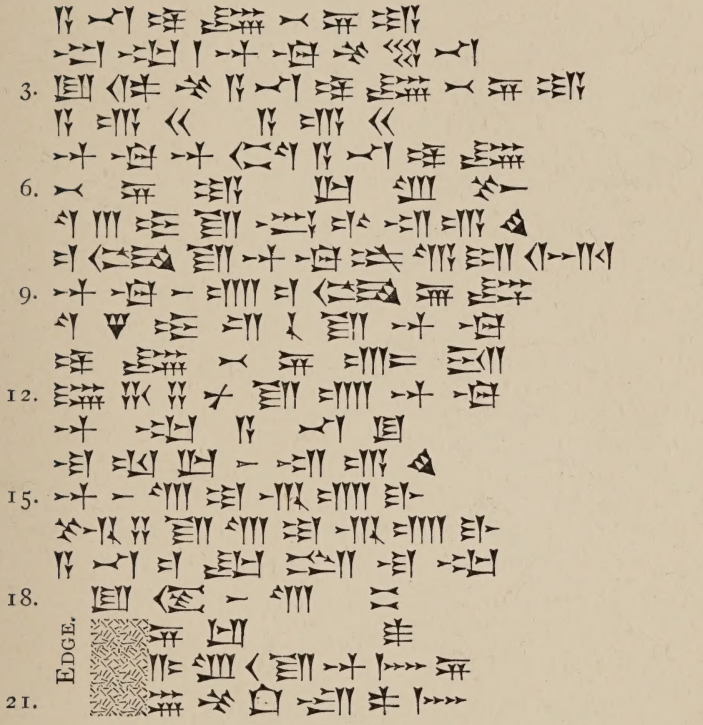


REVERSE.

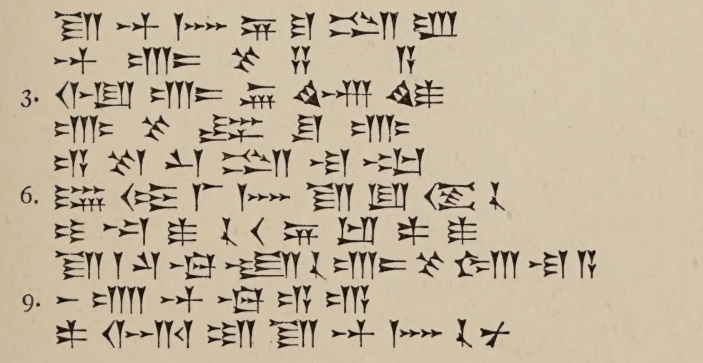


[65.] K. 629.

Obverse.

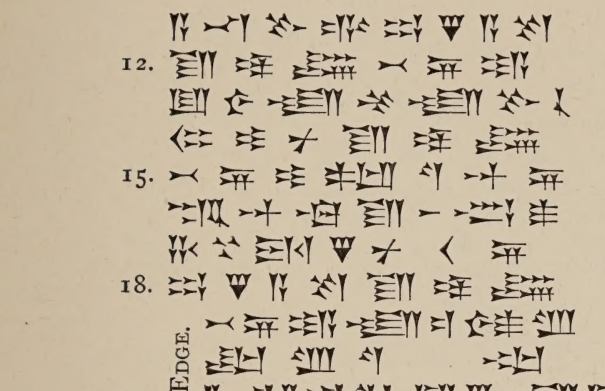


Reverse.



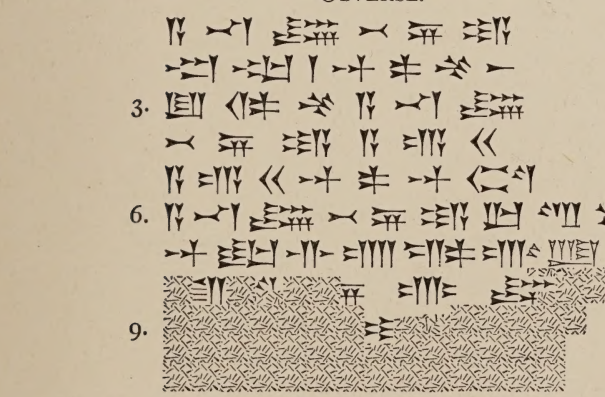
[65.] K. 629 (*continued*).

REVERSE.

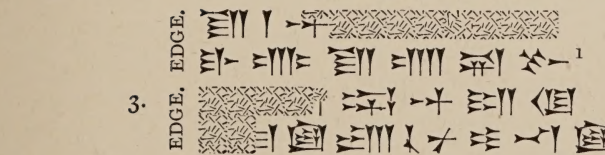


[66.] K. 1017.

OBVERSE.



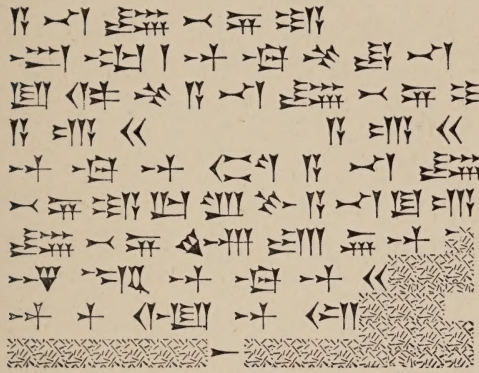
REVERSE.



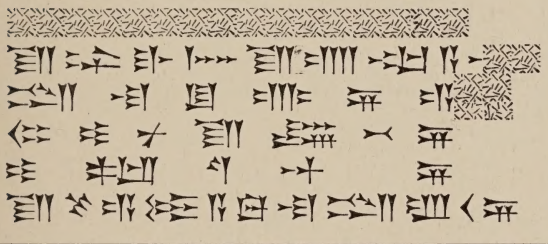
[1] Or .

[67.] K. 1050.

Obverse.

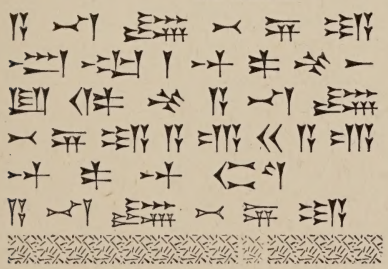


Reverse.

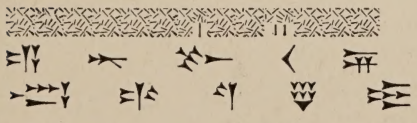


[68.] K. 1053.

Obverse.

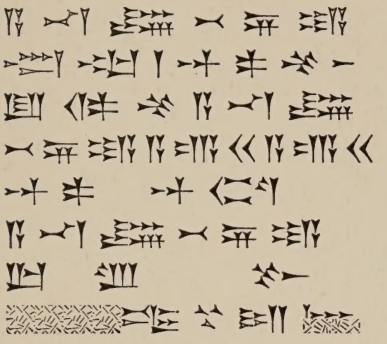


Reverse.

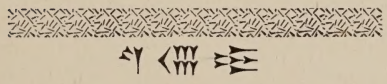


[69.] K. 1069.

Obverse.

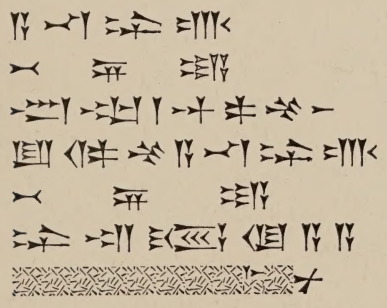


Reverse.

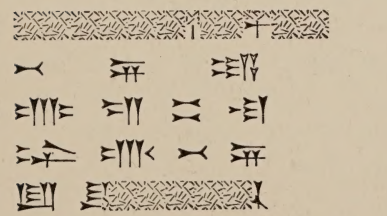


[70.] K. 1070.

Obverse.

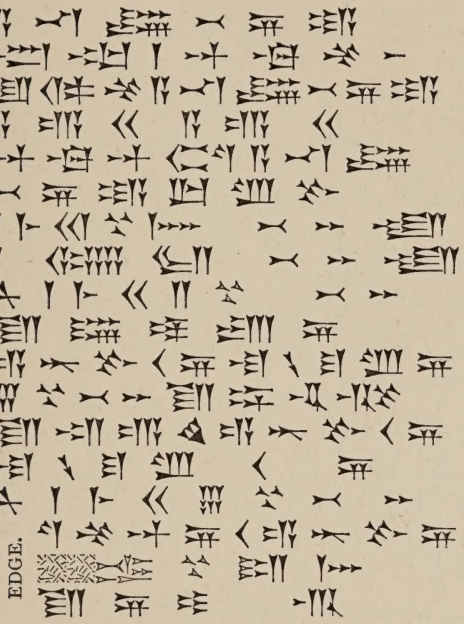


Reverse.

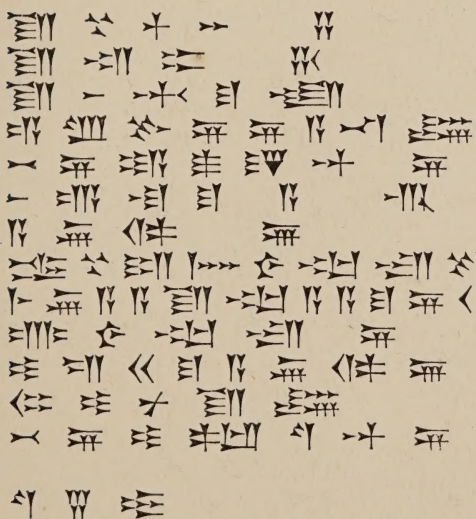


[71.] K. 1113 + K. 1229.

OBVERSE.

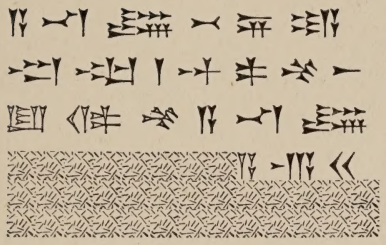


REVERSE.



[72.] K. 1272.

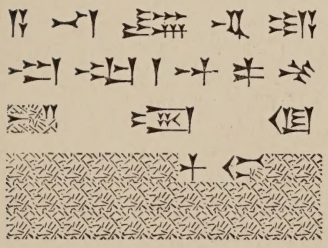
OBVERSE.



NO REVERSE.

[73.] K. 5509.

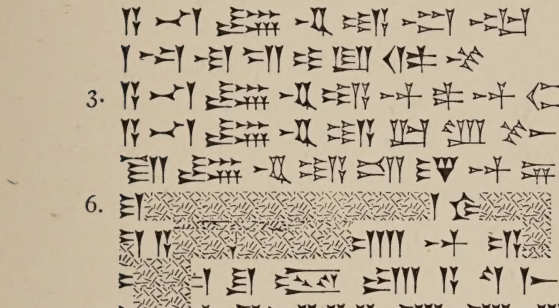
OBVERSE.



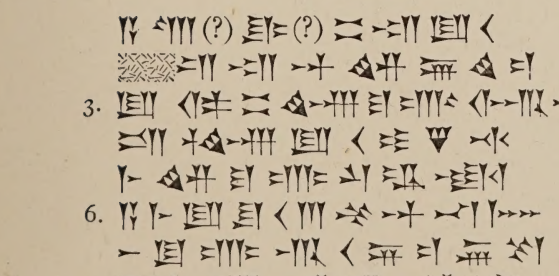
NO REVERSE.

[74.] K. 185.

OBVERSE.

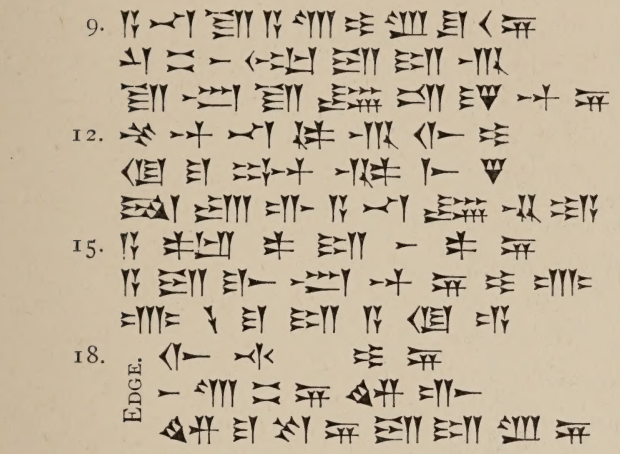


REVERSE.



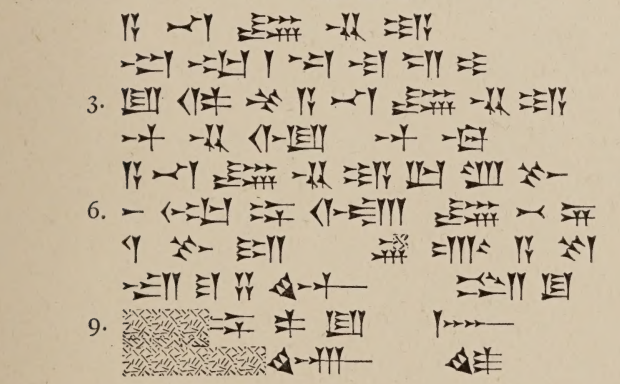
[74.] K. 185 (*continued*).

Reverse.

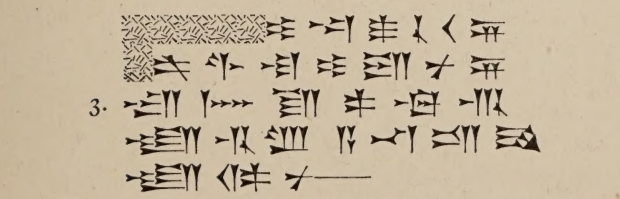


[75.] K. 546.

Obverse.

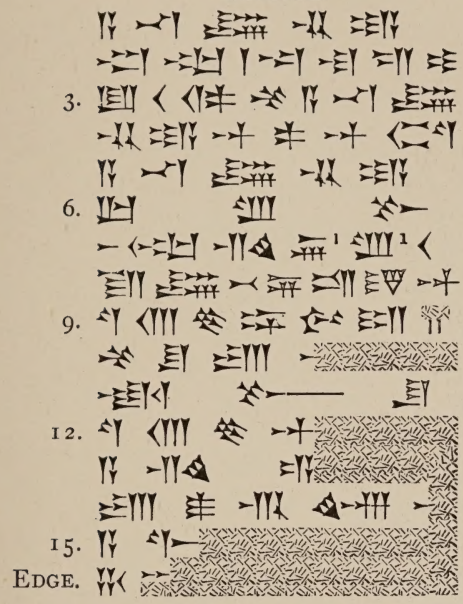


Reverse.

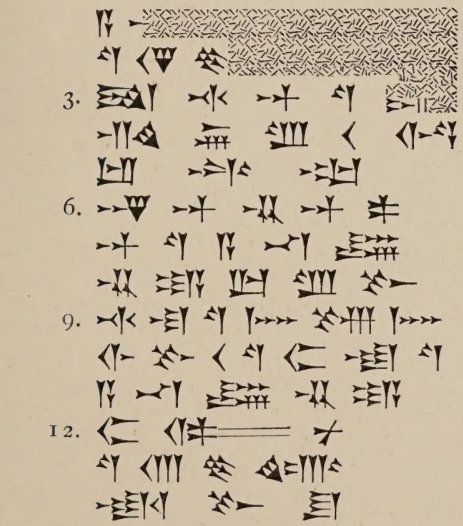


[76.] K. 555.

Obverse.



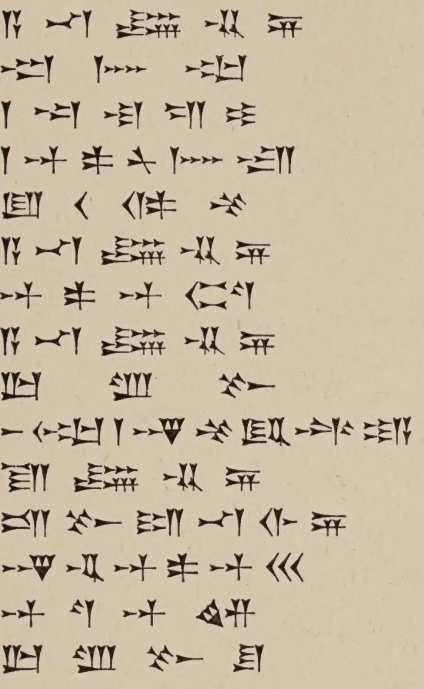
Reverse.



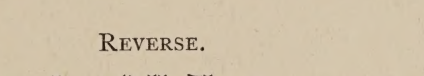
[1] Badly rubbed, and doubtful; but *cf.* Rev., l. 4.

[77.] K. 565.

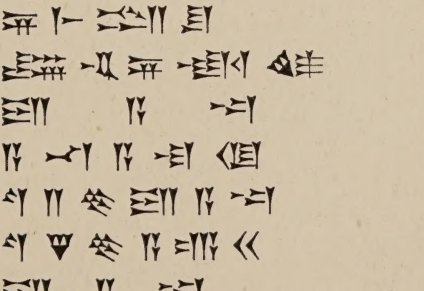
Obverse.



Edge.

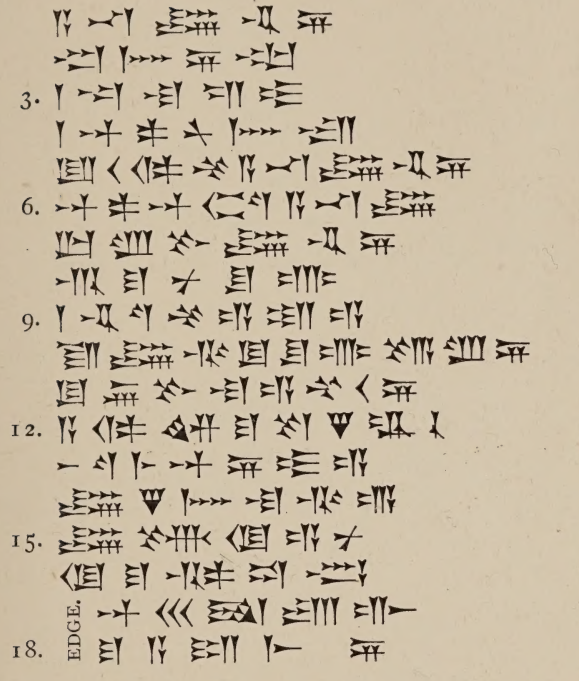


Reverse.

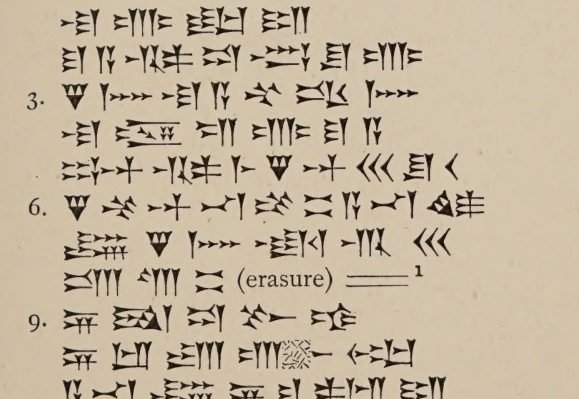


[78.] K. 569.

OBVERSE.



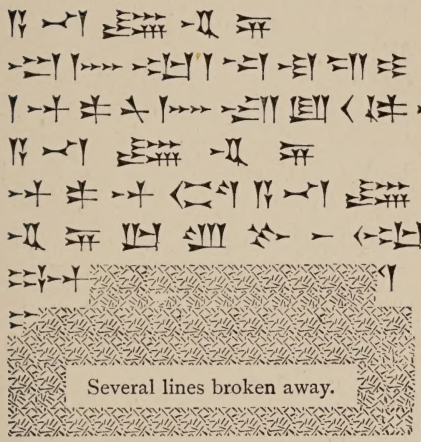
REVERSE.



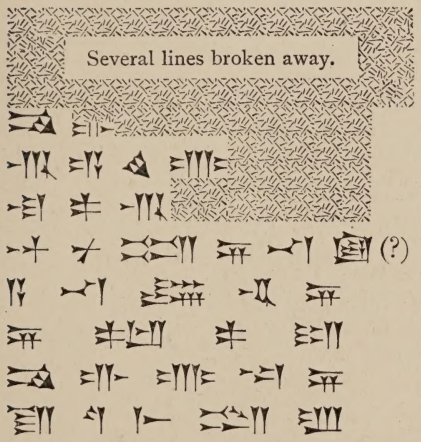
[1] Perhaps .

[79.] K. 4281.

Obverse.

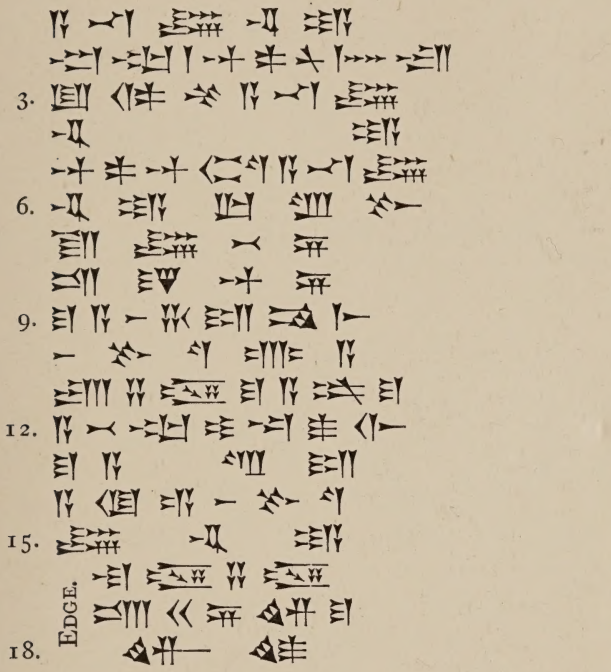


Reverse.



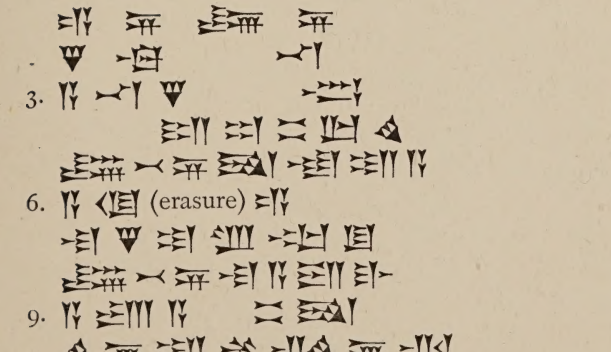
[80.] K. 520.

Obverse.



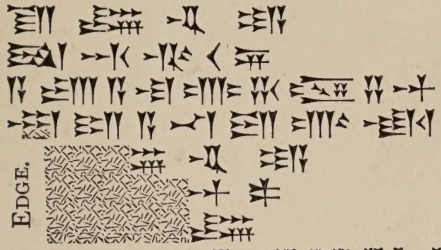
Edge.

Reverse.



[80.] K. 520 (*continued*).

Reverse.



12.

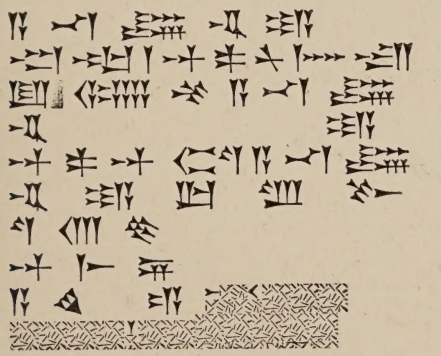
15.

Edge.

18. Left-hand Edge.

[81.] K. 642.

Obverse.



3.

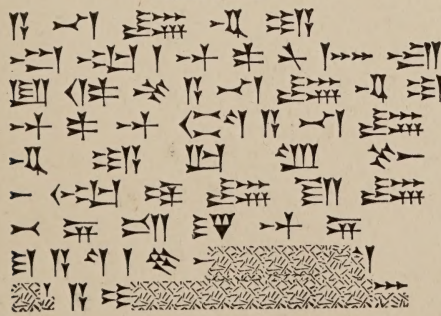
6.

9.

No Reverse.

[82.] K. 1200.

Obverse



3.

6.

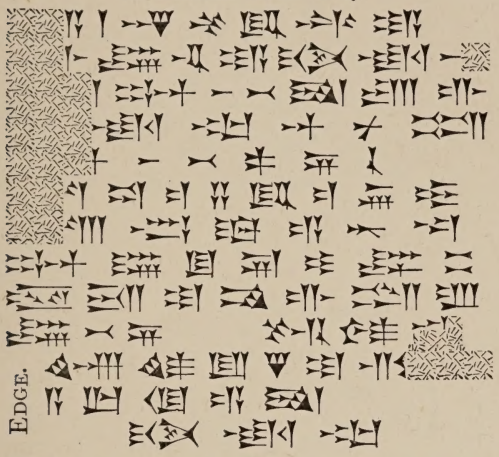
9.

Several lines broken away.

[82.] K. 1200 (*continued*).

REVERSE.

Several lines broken away.



EDGE.

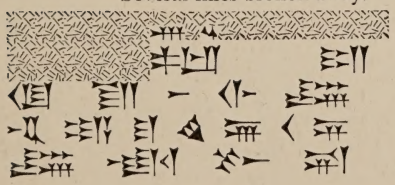
[83.] K. 5244 b.

OBVERSE.

Several lines broken away.

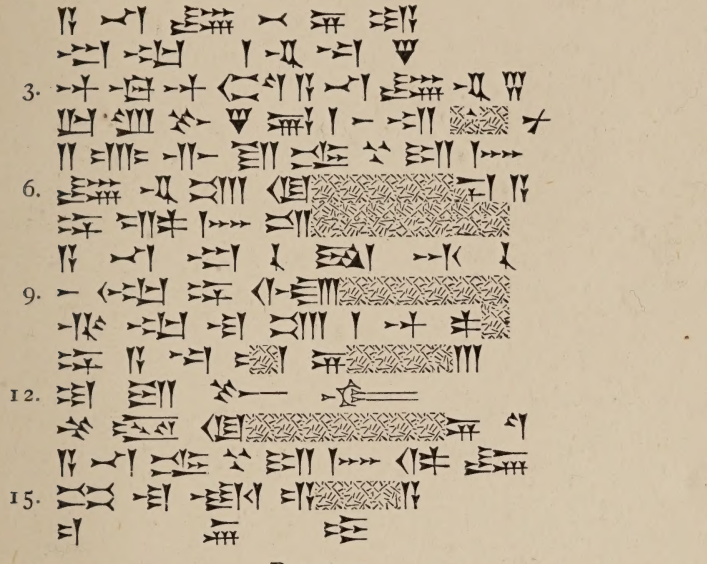
REVERSE.

Several lines broken away.

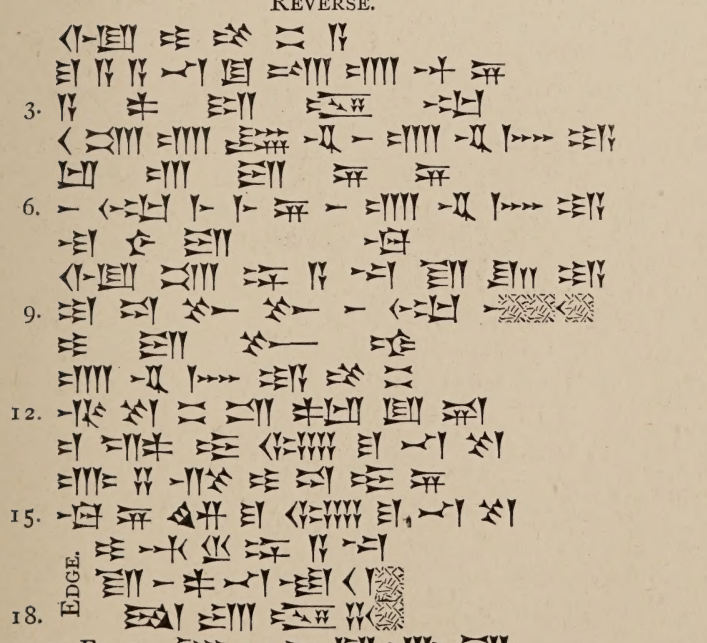


[84.] K. 117.

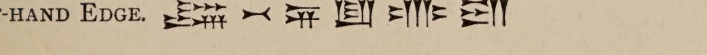
OBVERSE.



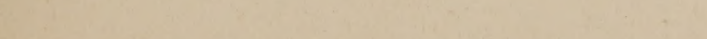
REVERSE.



EDGE.

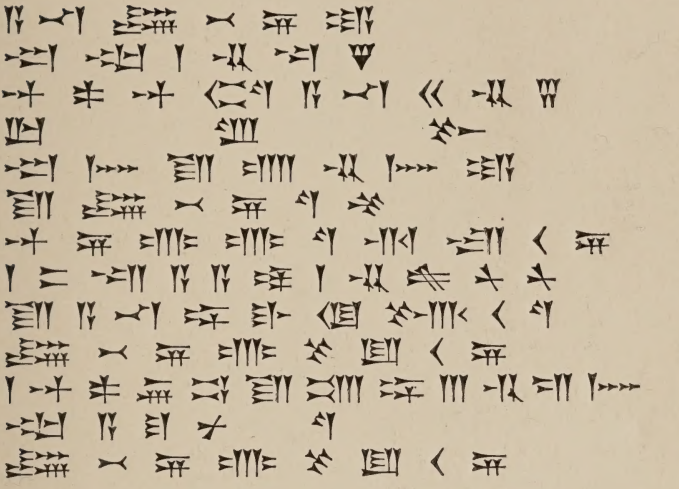


LEFT-HAND EDGE.

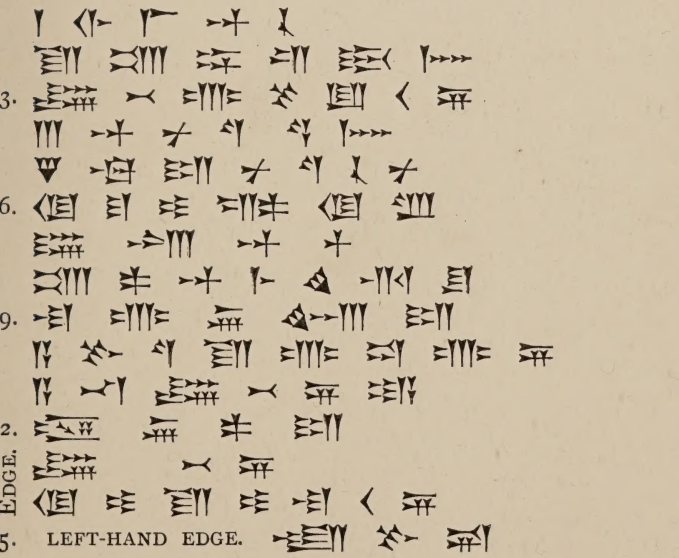


[85.] K. 613.

OBVERSE.



REVERSE.

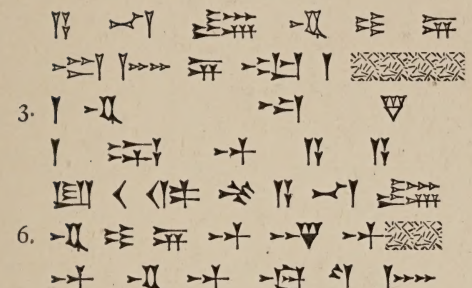


EDGE.

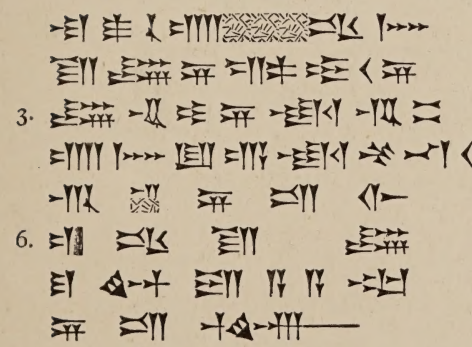
15. LEFT-HAND EDGE.

[86.] K. 660.

Obverse.



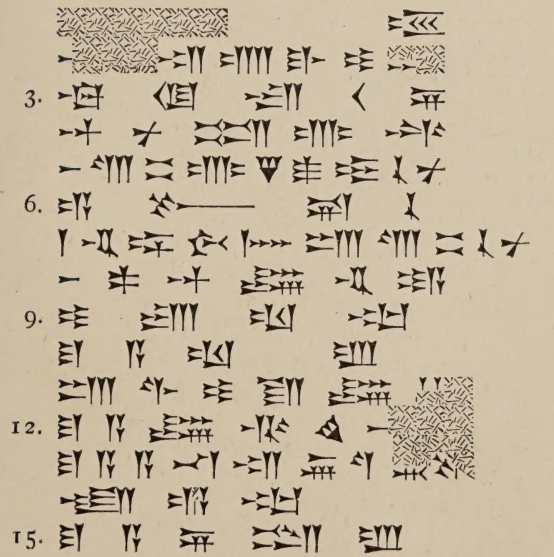
Reverse.



[87.] K. 466.

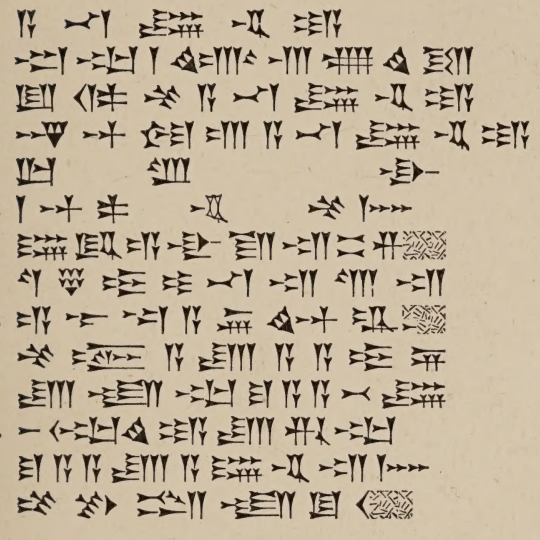
Obverse.

Reverse.

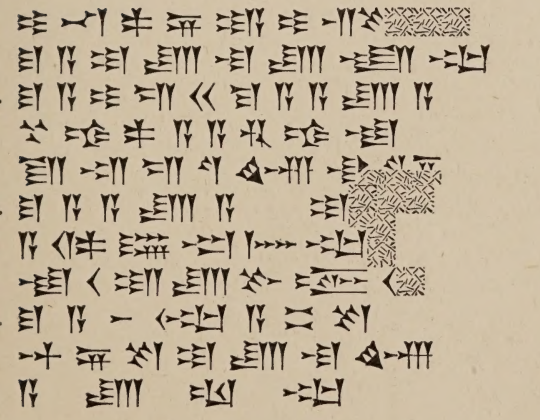


[88.] K. 507.

Obverse.

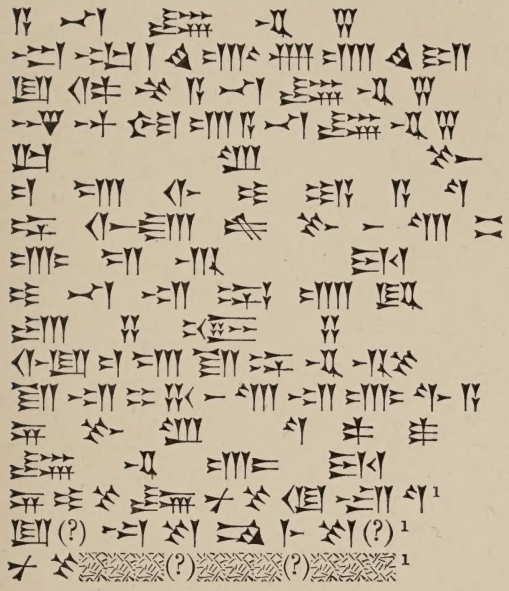


Reverse.

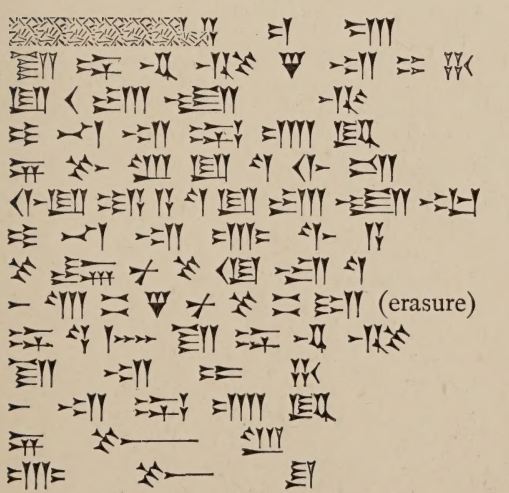


[89.] K. 515.

Obverse.



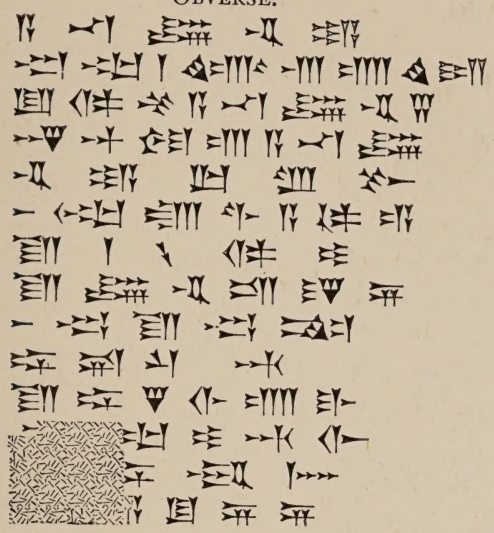
Reverse.



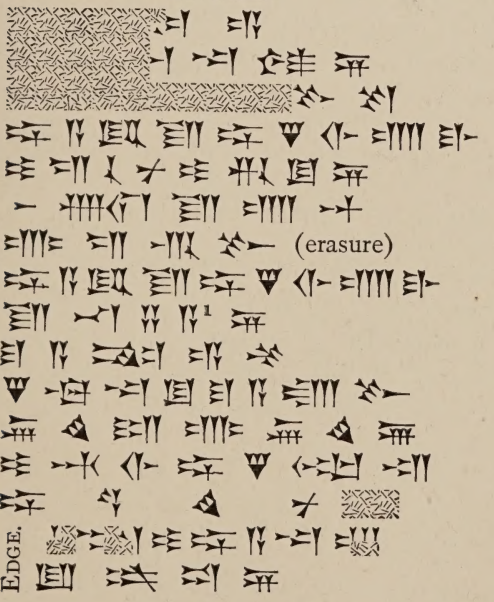
[1] These lines are filled with silica, and hence doubtful, but *cf.* rev., 8.

[90.] K. 594.

Obverse.



Reverse.

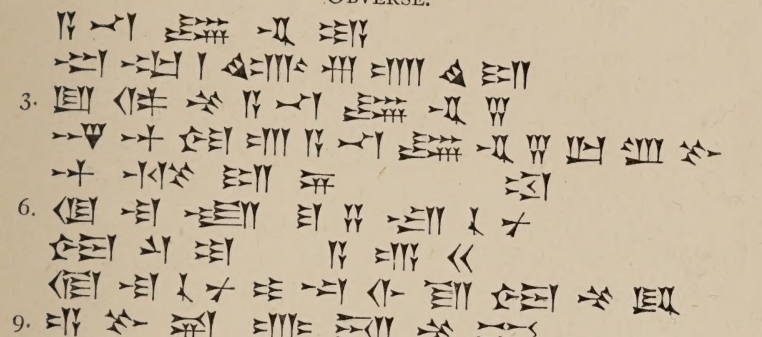


Edge.

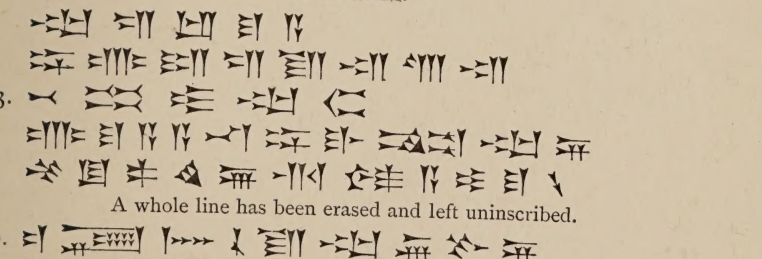
[1] Written over an erasure.

[91.] K. 620.

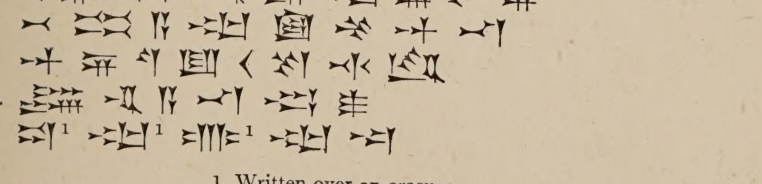
Obverse.



Reverse.



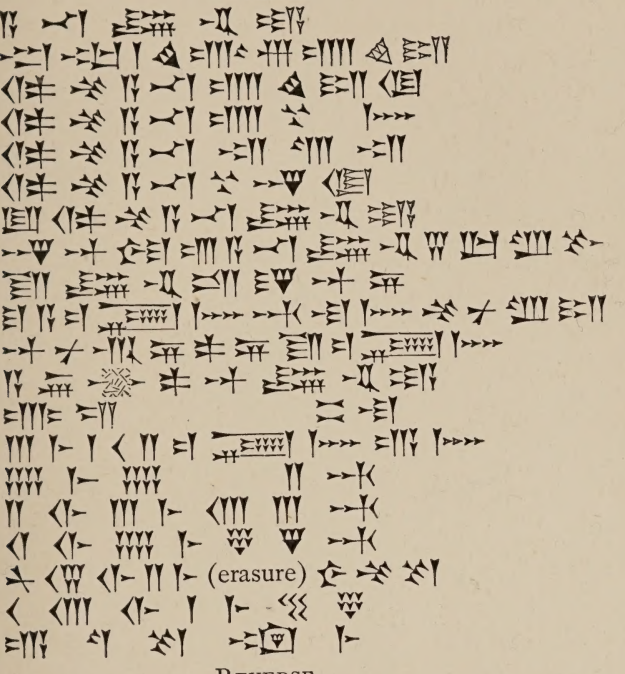
A whole line has been erased and left uninscribed.



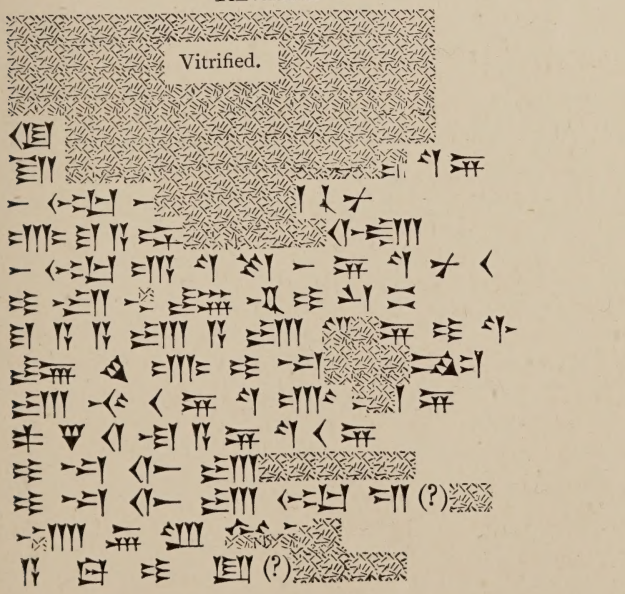
[1] Written over an erasure.

[92.] K. 656.

OBVERSE.

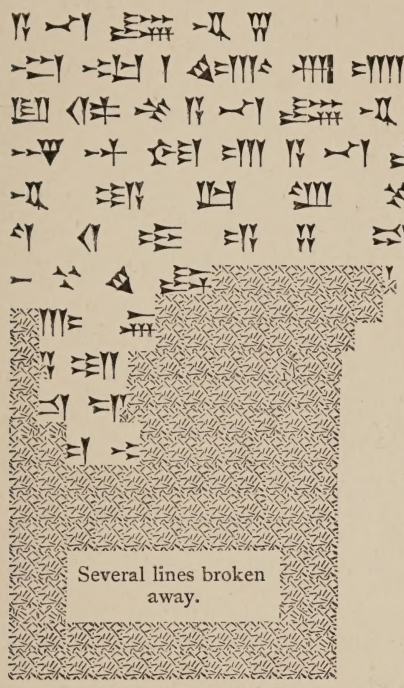


REVERSE.

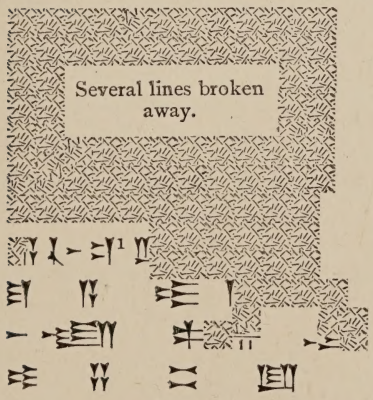


[93.] K. 1057.

Obverse.



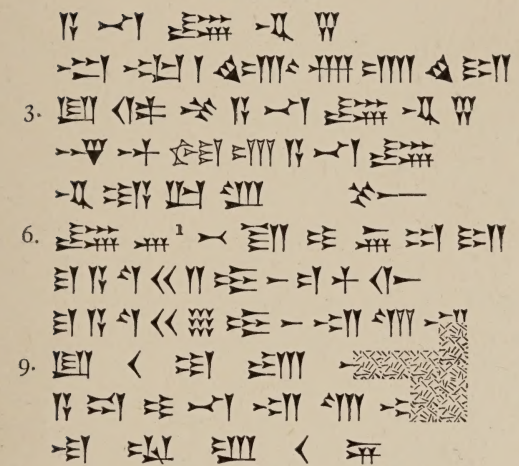
Reverse.



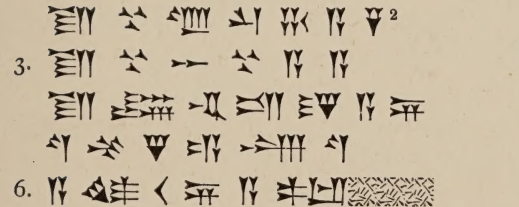
[1] Written over an erasure.

[94.] K. 1147 + 1947.

Obverse.



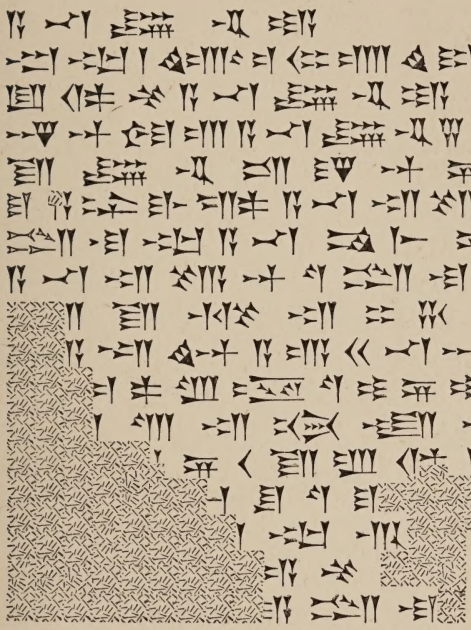
Reverse.



[1] Perhaps an erasure. [2] Perhaps .

[95.] K. 1151.

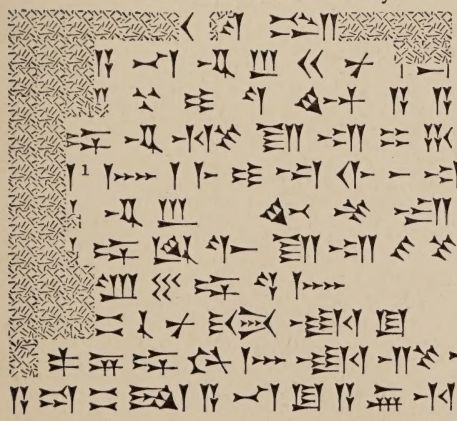
OBVERSE.



Several lines broken away.

REVERSE.

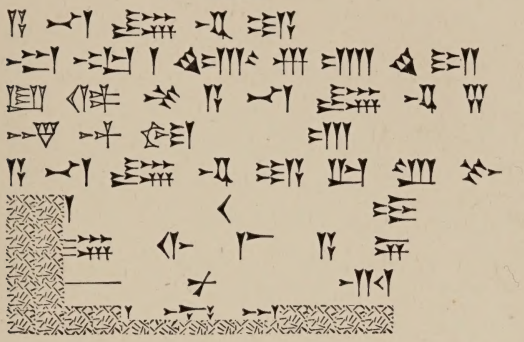
Several lines broken away.



[1] Or .

[96.] K. 1413.

Obverse.

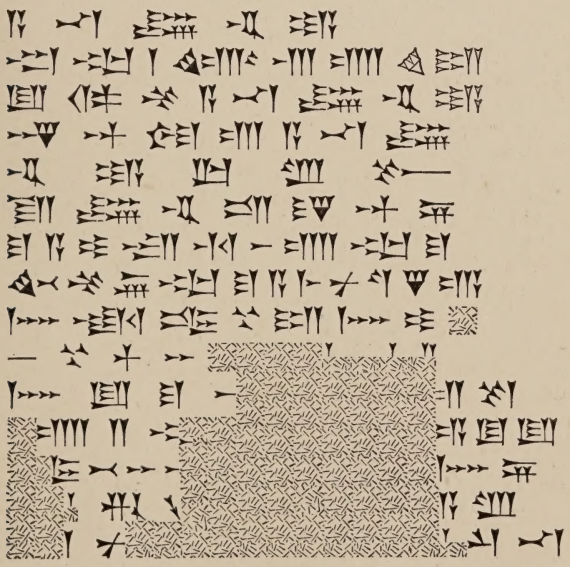


Several lines broken away.

No Reverse.

[97.] K. 4770.

Obverse.

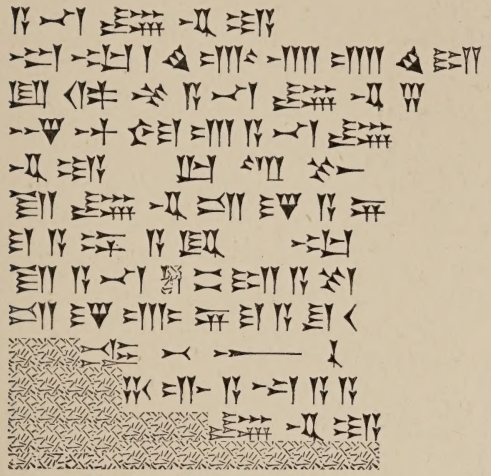


Several lines broken away.

On Reverse only the last character of 8 or 10 lines.

[98.] K. 5465.

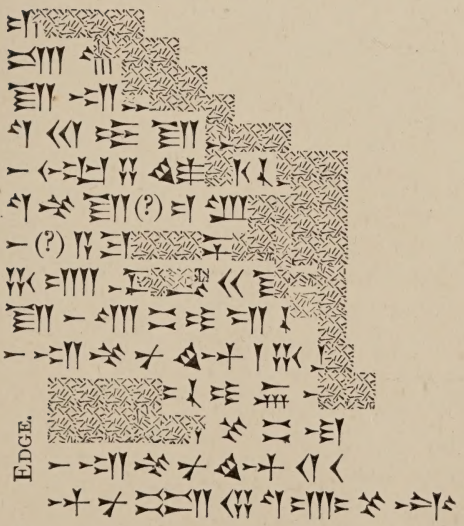
Obverse.



Several lines broken away.

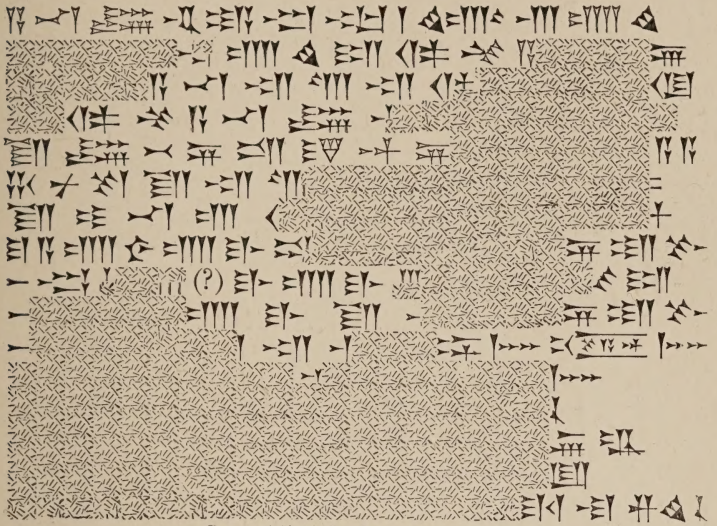
Reverse.

Several lines broken away.



[99.] K. 5466.

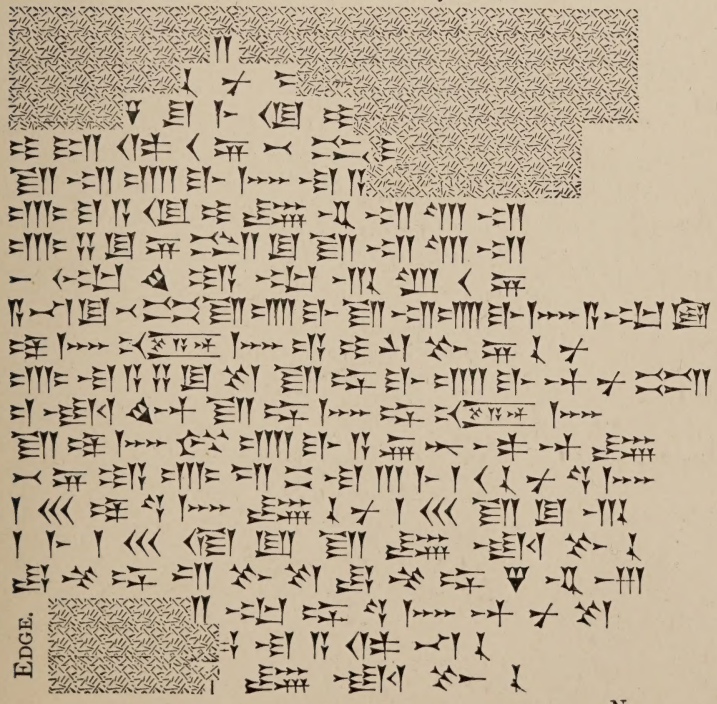
OBVERSE.



Several lines broken away.

REVERSE.

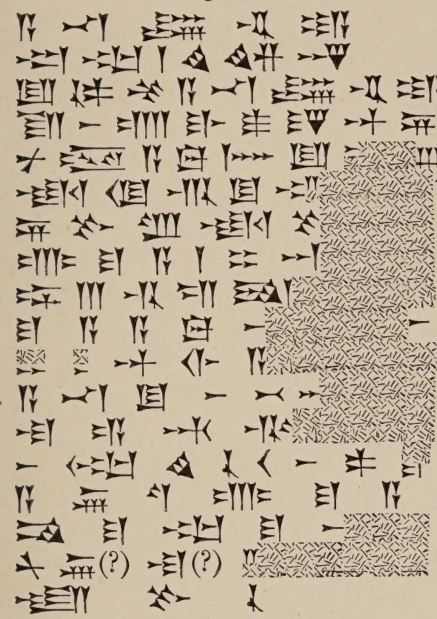
Several lines broken away.



EDGE.

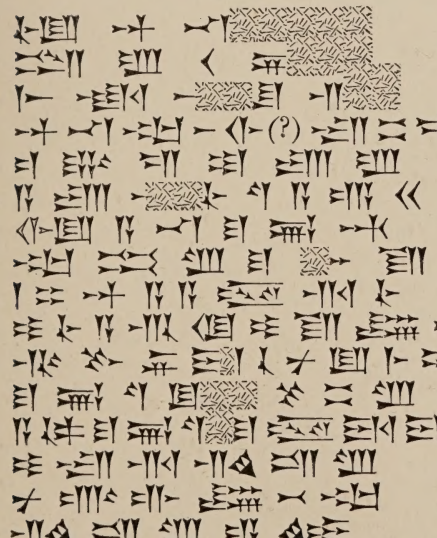
[100.] K. 554.

OBVERSE.



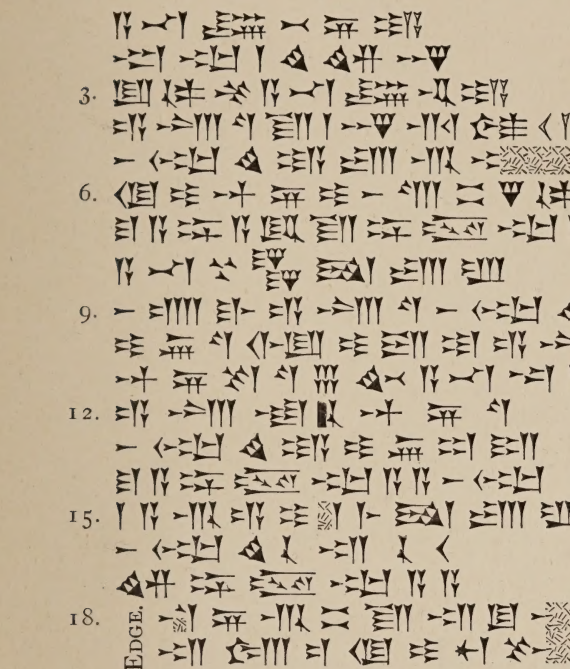
EDGE.

REVERSE.

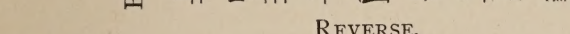


[101.] K. 561.

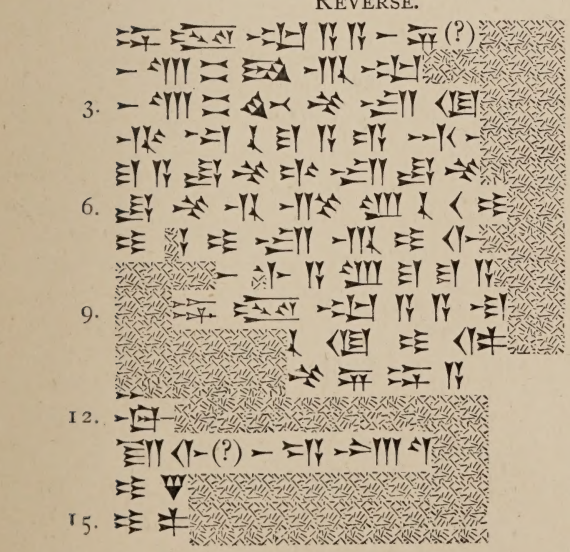
OBVERSE.



EDGE.

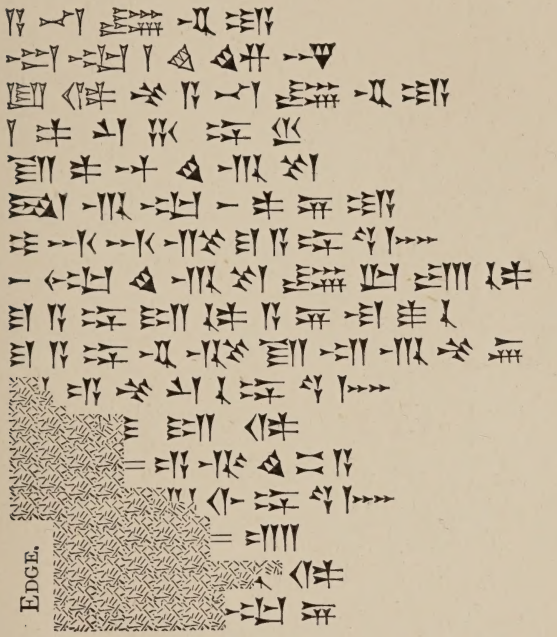


REVERSE.

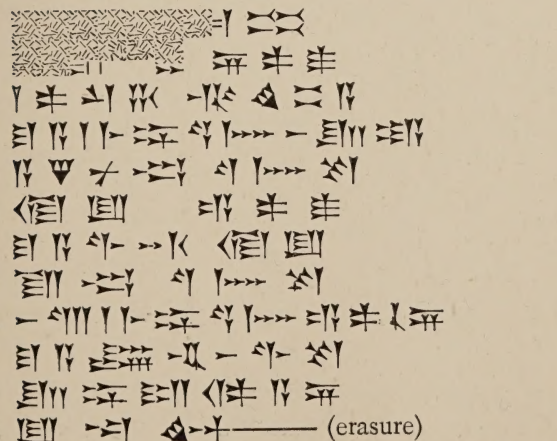


[102.] K. 657.

OBVERSE.

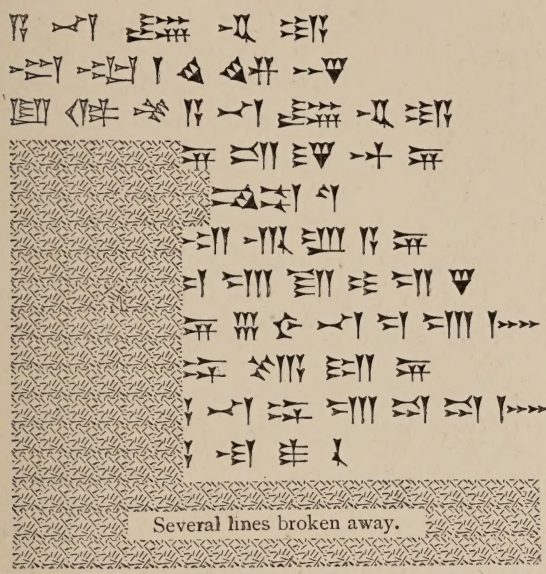


REVERSE.



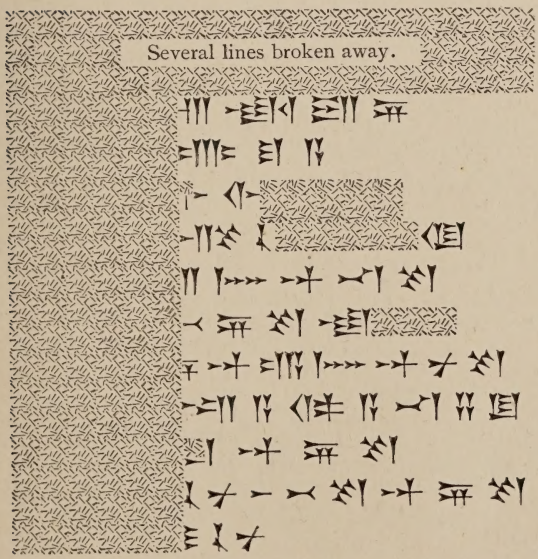
[103.] K. 1189.

OBVERSE.



Several lines broken away.

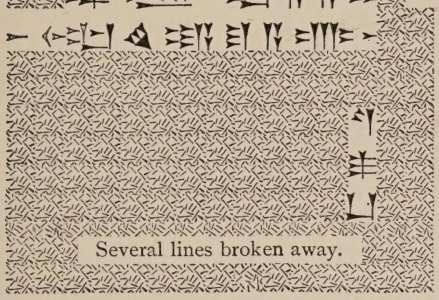
REVERSE.



Several lines broken away.

[104.] K. 1195.

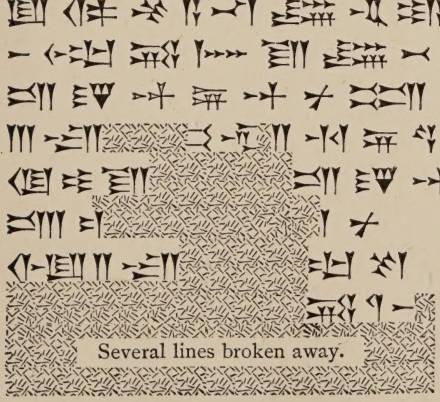
OBVERSE.



NO REVERSE.

[105.] K. 1205.

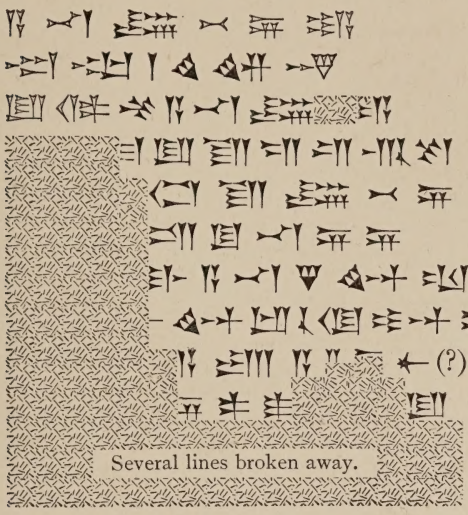
OBVERSE.



NO REVERSE.

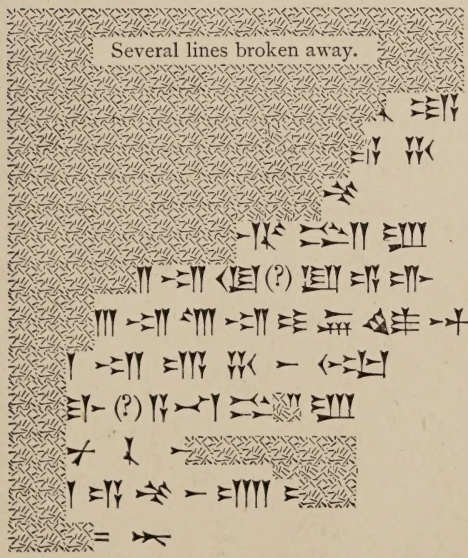
[106.] K. 1209.

OBVERSE.



Several lines broken away.

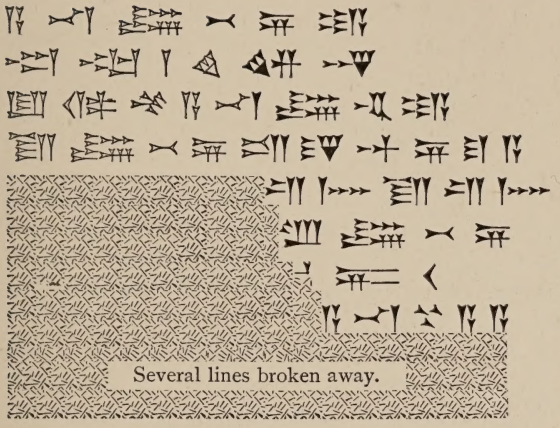
REVERSE.



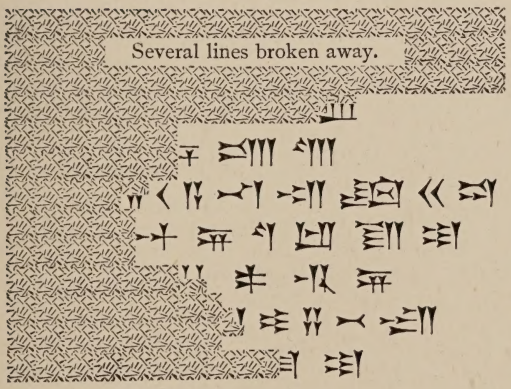
Several lines broken away.

[107.] K. 4304.

OBVERSE.

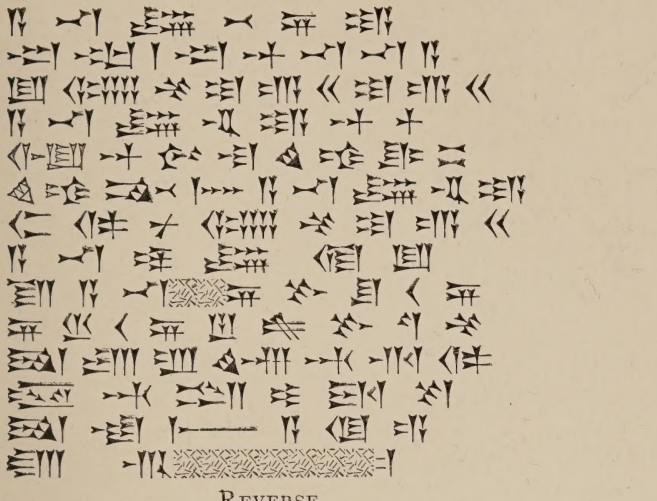


REVERSE.

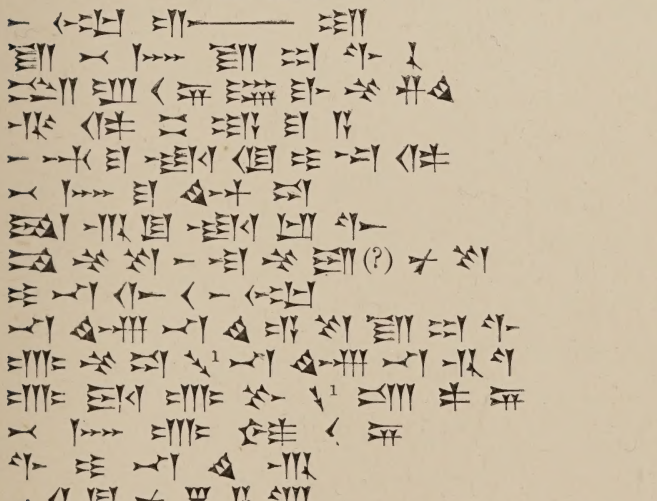


[108.] K. 519.

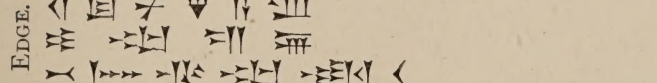
OBVERSE.



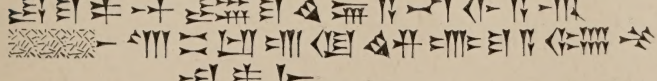
REVERSE.



EDGE.



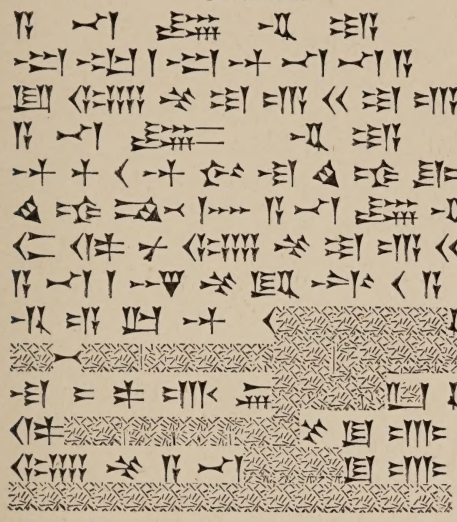
LEFT-HAND EDGE.



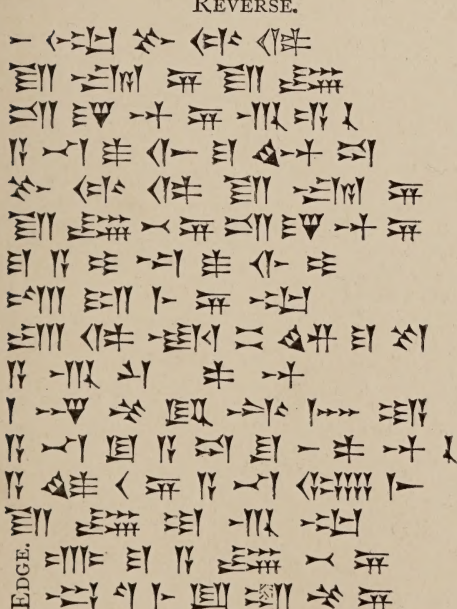
[1] Division marks.

[109.] K. 532.

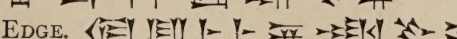
Obverse.



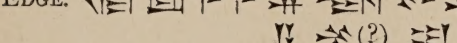
Reverse.



Edge.

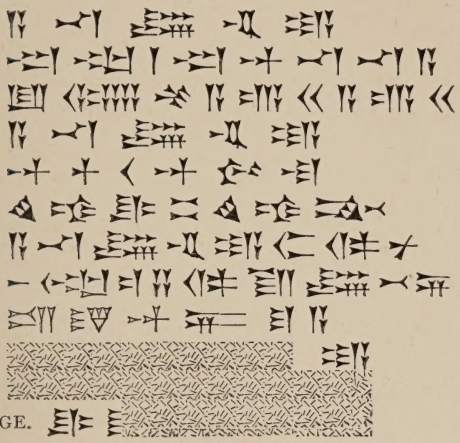


Left-hand Edge.

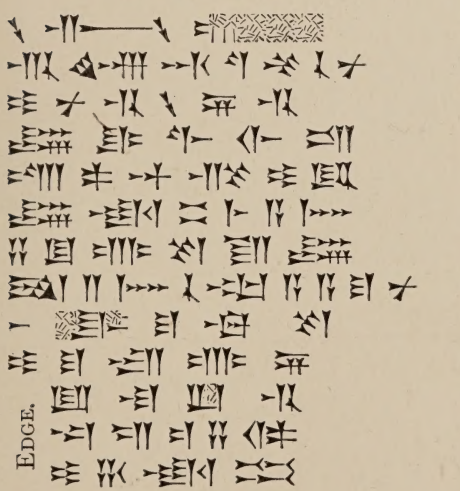


[110.] K. 576.

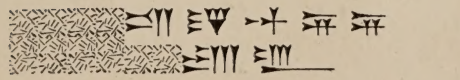
Obverse.



Reverse.

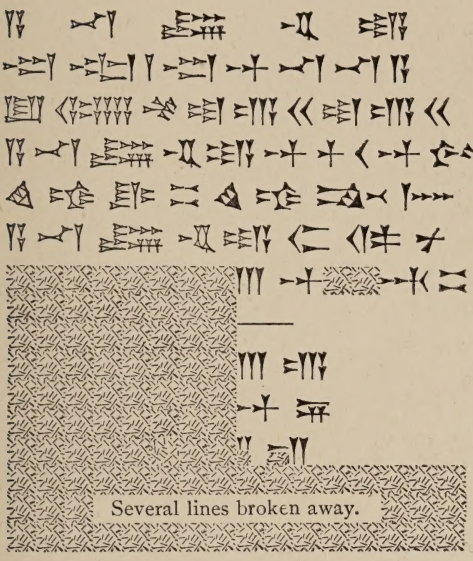


Left-hand Edge.

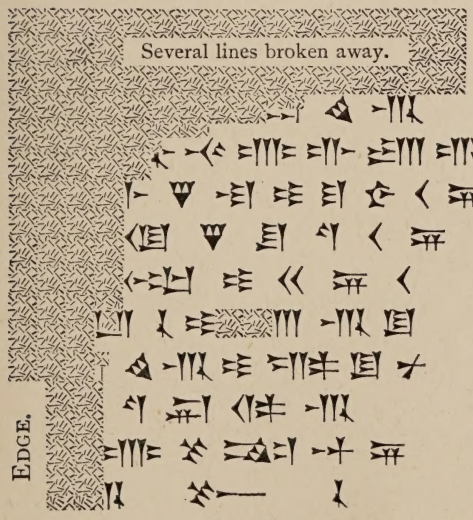


[111.] K. 4704.

OBVERSE.

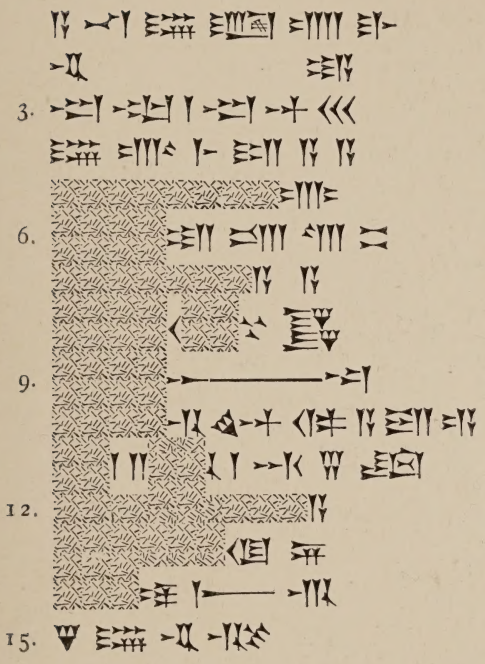


REVERSE.

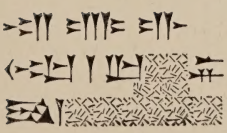


[112.] K. 485.

Obverse.

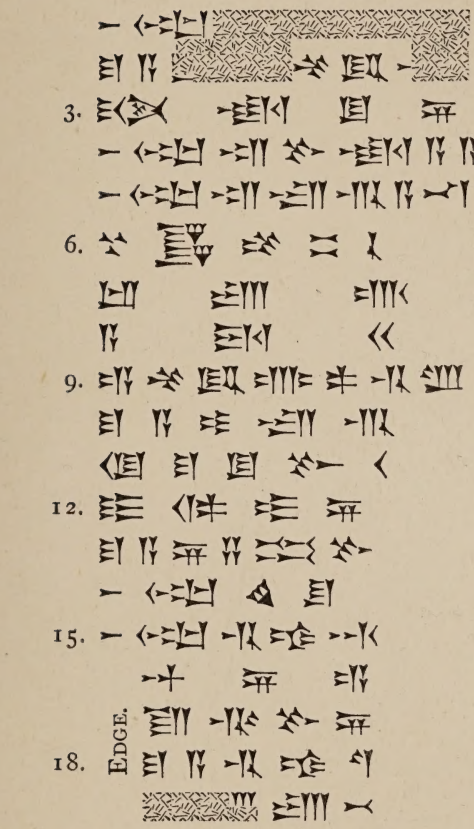


Edge.

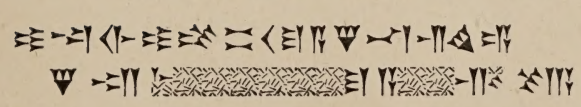


[112.] K. 485 (*continued*).

Reverse.

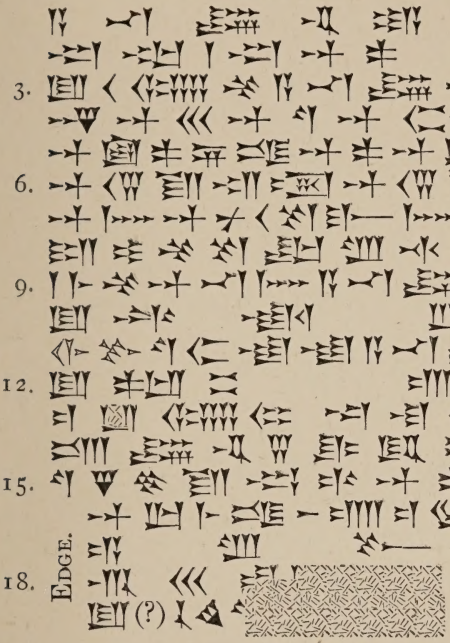


Left-hand Edge.



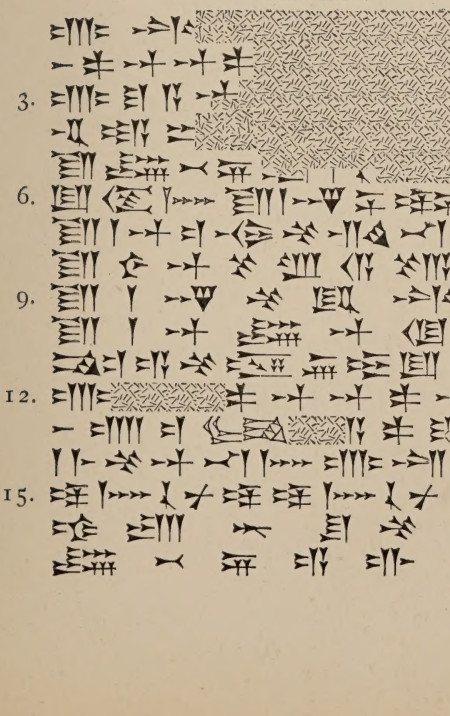
[113.] K. 501.

Obverse.



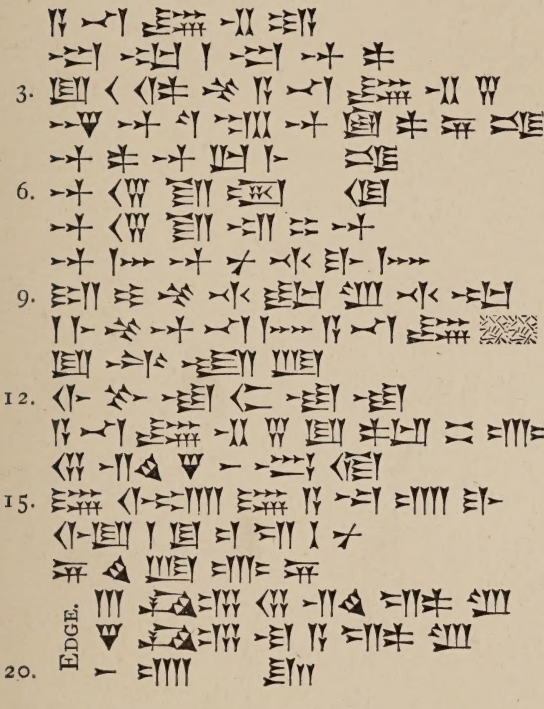
Edge.

Reverse.

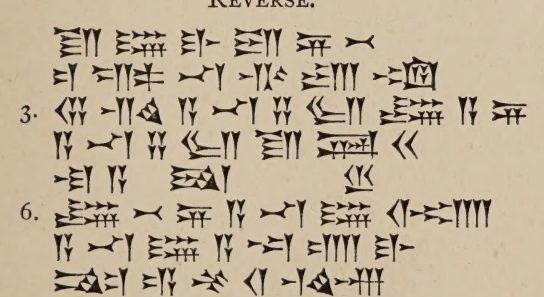


[114.] K. 538.

Obverse.

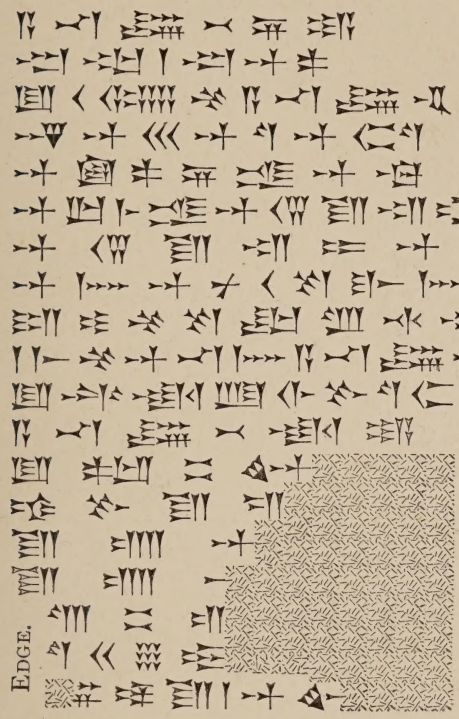


Reverse.

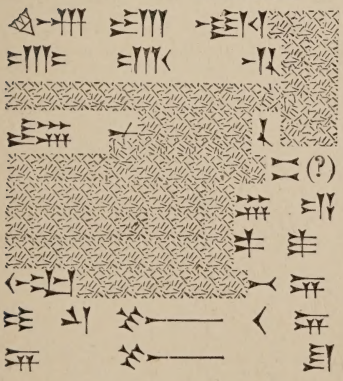


[115.] K. 627.

OBVERSE.



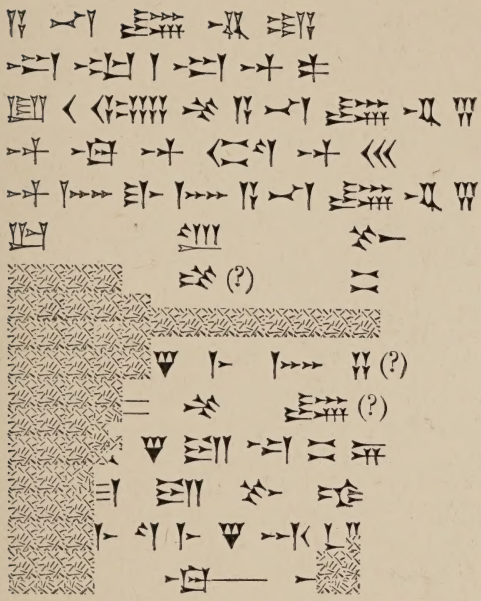
REVERSE.



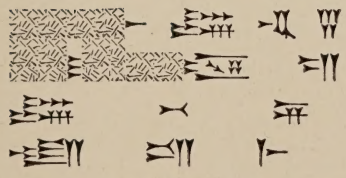
Lines 3–8 are so badly defaced as to be illegible.

[116.] K. 970.

Obverse.

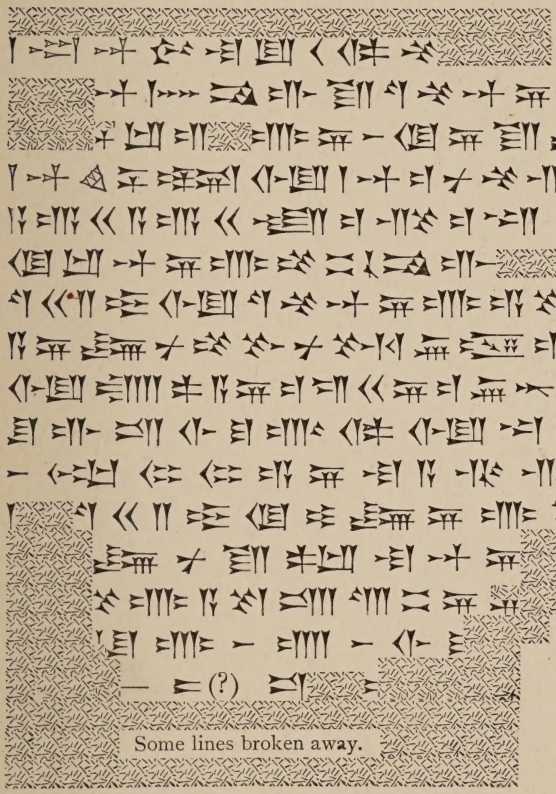


Reverse.



[117.] K. 991.

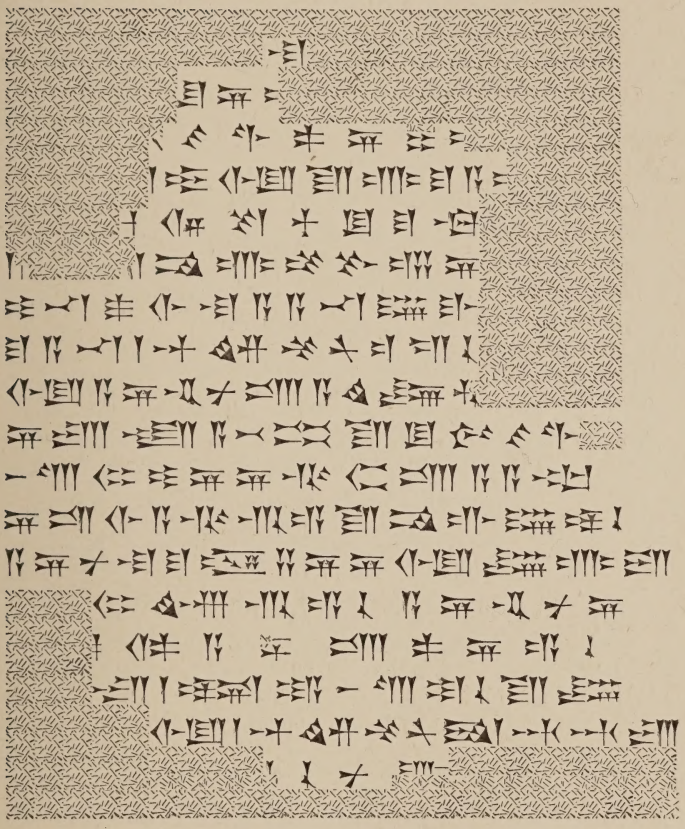
OBVERSE.



Some lines broken away.

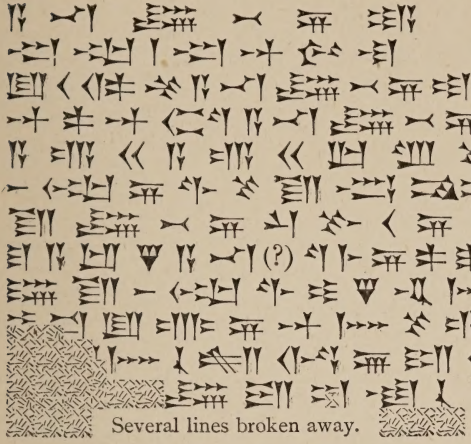
[117.] K. 991 (*continued*).

REVERSE.



[118.] K. 1026.

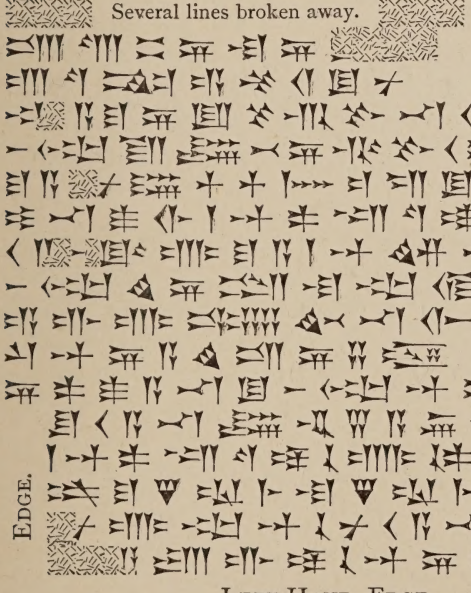
Obverse.



Several lines broken away.

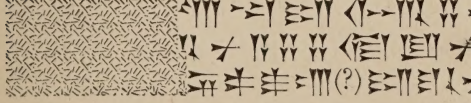
Reverse.

Several lines broken away.



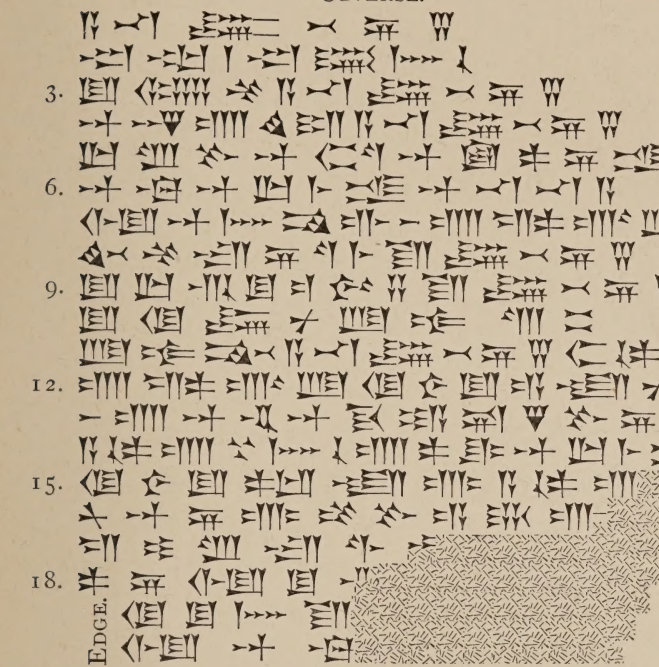
Edge.

Left-Hand Edge.

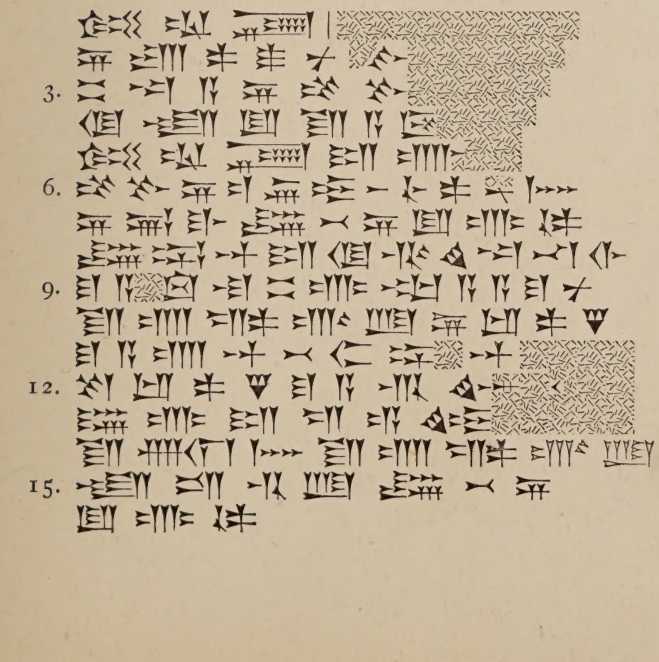


[119.] K. 499.

Obverse.

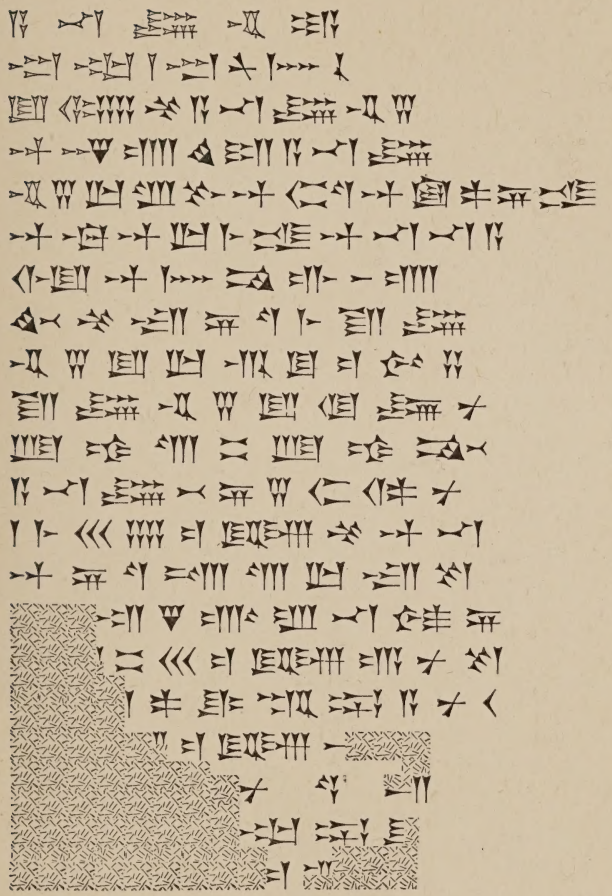


Reverse.



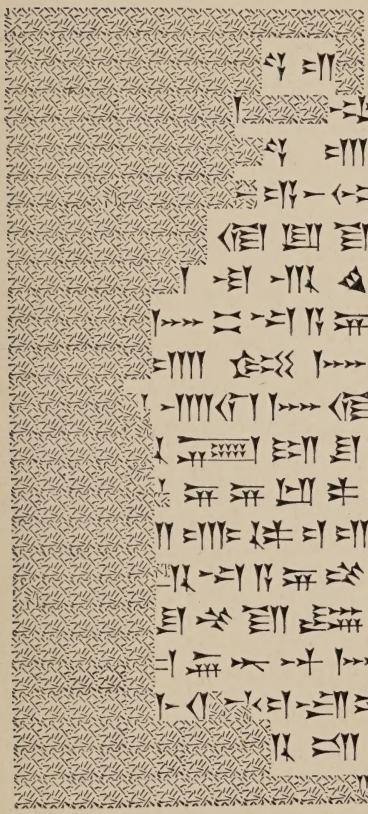
[120.] K. 1461.

Obverse.



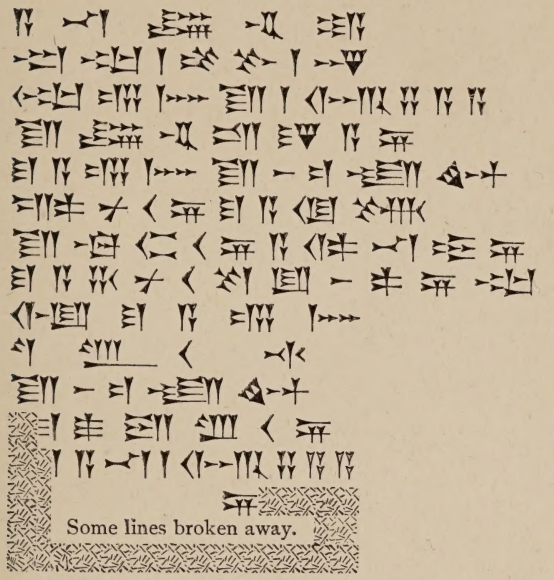
[120.] K. 1461 (*continued*).

Reverse.

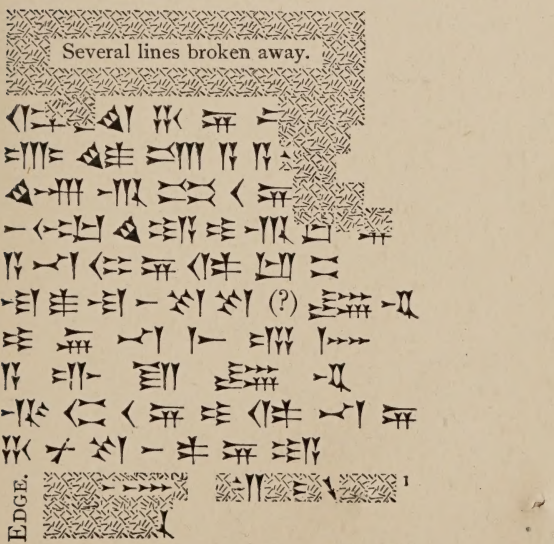


[121.] K. 468.

OBVERSE.



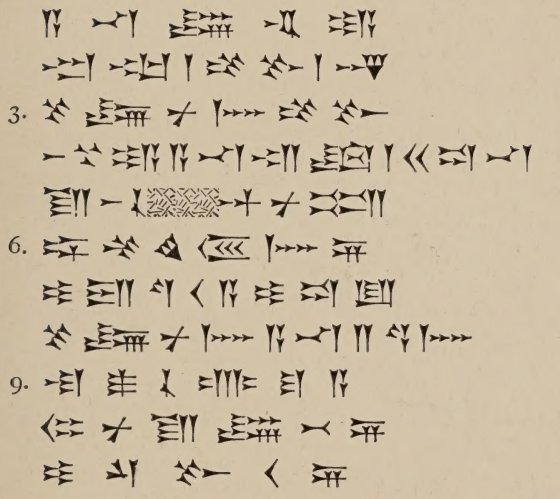
REVERSE.



[1] Erasure.

[122.] K. 491.

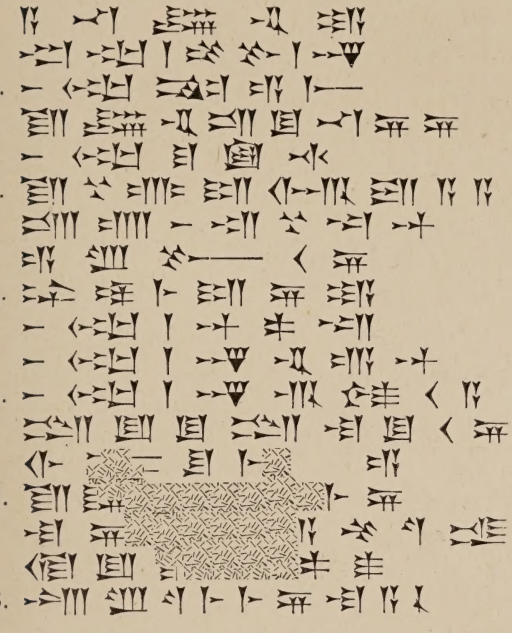
Obverse.



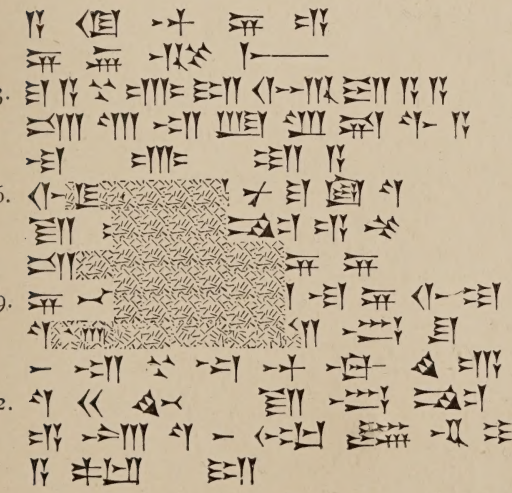
Reverse not inscribed.

[123.] K. 574.

Obverse.

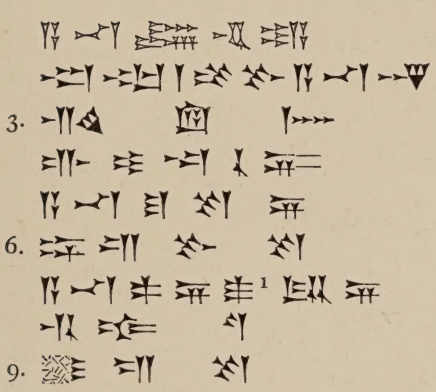


Reverse.

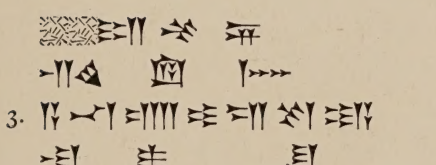


[124.] K. 903.

Obverse.



Reverse.



[1] Or .

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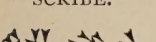	1	K. 167	1
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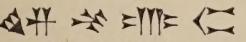
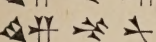
	7	K. 601	9
	8	K. 612	10
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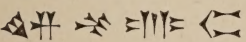
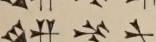
	13	K. 1040	14
	14	K. 1087	14
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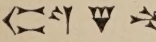	17	K. 472	16
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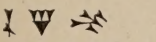
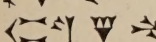
	21	K. 511	20
	22	K. 591	20, 21
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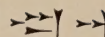	27	K. 1022	27
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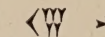
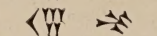
	31	K. 522	30
	32	K. 527	30, 31
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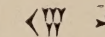
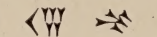
	35	K. 983	33
	36	K. 1032	34
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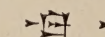	42	K. 14	39
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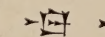	50	K. 1242	48
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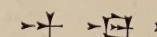
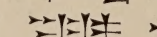
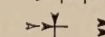
	53	K. 174	51
	54	K. 476	52
	55	K. 483	52, 53
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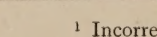
[1] Incorrectly printed  in text.

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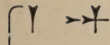	60	K. 487	57
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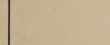	65	K. 629	60, 61
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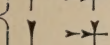	74	K. 185	66, 67
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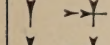	84	K. 117	75
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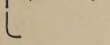	87	K. 466	78
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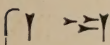	93	K. 1057	84

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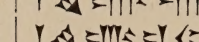
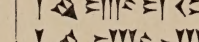
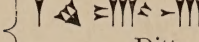
	94	K. 1147 + 1947	85
	95	K. 1151	86
	96	K. 1418	87
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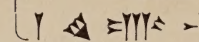
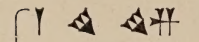
	99	K. 5466	89
	100	K. 554	90
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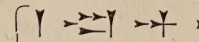	108	K. 519	97
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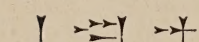
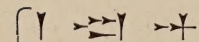
	112	K. 485	101, 102
	113	K. 501	103
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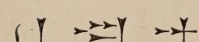	117	K. 991	107, 108
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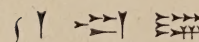
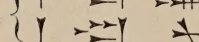
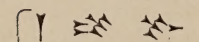
	119	K. 499	110
	120	K. 1461	111, 112
	121	K. 468	113
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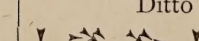	124	K. 903	116

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